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Mountaineering regions of Kyrgyzstan

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Mountaineering regions of Kyrgyzstan

Guidebook

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Introduction

Mountains cover 95% of the territory of Kyrgyzstan and 40% of those are above 3,000 meters high. There are many regions where the foot of climber has never stepped. In Kyrgyzstan such regions as high vertical walls or 5,000 meters and over mountains are well explored. Anything besides aforementioned is not of any interest for climbers, especially if it's lower than 4,000 m. Thousands of accessible and gorgeous summits are still virgin.

There are 7 well known and explored mountainous regions in Kyrgyzstan. Four of them are located in Tien-Shan and three are in Pamir. But no one knows how many unexplored or not very well studied regions there still are. Easy access and spectacular summits determine interest to a region and its development.

This guidebook gives brief description and outline of well explored as well as undeveloped and prospective regions (characteristics of the region, location, season, climate, history of exploring and development, camps, access, climbing opportunities, rescue works, connectivity and formalities). The book also gives recommendations on logistics and supply of alpine expeditions and solution of necessary formalities.

Photography is the courtesy of Vladimir Komissarov, Adolf Shlunegger, Terry Ralph, Kerim Aktaev and Slava Miroshkin.

I. **Geographic outline of the Tien-Shan and Pamir**

Kyrgyzstan borders with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China. The Republic covers an area of 198 000 square kilometers. It stretches for 980 km from west to east and the widest stretch from north to south is 350 km. The lowest point is 550 m in the very north of the country and the highest point of 7,439 m is Pobeda Peak. The average altitude is 2200 m. About 95% of the territory is mountains. Mountainous ranges alternate with intermountain depressions, basins and valleys. There are three big basins: Chuiskaya, Issikkulskaya and Ferganskaya kotlovini. Smaller basins are called intermountain depressions. These are Talasskaya, Narynskaya, Alaiskaya, Susamyrskaya, Djumgalskaya, Ketmen-Tubinskaya, Kochkorskaya, Atbashinskaya and Sonkulskaya. There are even smaller formations as intermountain valleys, such as Sarydjakskaya, Kuylyu, Inilchekskaya, etc. Mountainous ranges condensate and accumulate moisture. They form vertical zoning of physiographic structure, distribution of vegetation, climate and other characteristics.

The climate of Kyrgyzstan is acutely continental. It is conditioned by remoteness from the ocean, elevation above sea level and location in the central part of the Eurasian continent. Such climate is characterized by significant temperature fluctuation both diurnal and seasonal, moderate precipitation and high dryness of air. Mountainous areas of Kyrgyzstan vary in local climate characteristics which determine diverse landscapes. Temperature distribution is influenced basically by the true altitude and relief ruggedness. In summer the temperature is mostly influenced by the altitude and in winter is by relief features. The latitude effects temperature insignificantly. Population of the country is 5 million people and most of people live in towns and villages situated in large valleys. Mountains of Kyrgyzstan are part of the two biggest mountainous systems in the world – the Tien-Shan and Pamir.

A. Tien-Shan.

It is one of the mightiest mountainous systems in Asia. Its latitudinal strike is up to 2,000 km and its width is around 400 km. About two-third of the Tien-Shan mountains are on the territory of Kyrgyzstan. Mountainous ridges of Tien-Shan stretch in latitudinal and sublatitudinal directions (figure 1). They are formed by sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks.

Orography. The orographic structure of the Tien-Shan is divided into the Northern, Western, Central, Inner and Eastern parts. The Northern Tien-Shan consists of Kyrgyzskiy, Zailiiskiy and Kungei-Ala-Too ranges. The Central Tien-Shan includes eastern part of the Terskey Ala-Too and Kokshal ranges, also the Sarydjaz, Tengri-Tag, Meridionalnyi, Engylchekskiy and Kaindy ranges. The Western Tien-Shan covers Talasskiy, Pskemskiy, Ugamskiy, Sandalashskiy and Chatkalskiy ranges. The inner Tien-Shan is situated to the south of Kyrgyzskiy and Terskey ranges, to the east of Ferganskiy range, to the north of Kokshaal range and to the west of meridional part of Sarydjaz river. The Eastern Tien-Shan is located on the territory of China to the east of Meridional range. The ridges of Tien-Shan are characterized by the latitudinal strike and only few differ. Among the latter are: Ferganskiy and Atoinokskiy ranges, which stretch from the northwest to the southeast; the Meridional range which has meridional strike; and the Pskemskiy, Ugamskiy, Chatkalskiy and Sandalashskiy ranges stretching from the southwest to the northeast. The majority of ranges have typical mountainous glacial relief, so-called “alpine”. Insignificant number of ranges has high elevated ancient aligned areas – peneplains, like in Tibet. Examples of such peneplains can be elevated up to 4,000-5,000 meters, like the southern slope of Terskey Ala-Too or the Inner Tien-Shan. The acutely continental climate is characterized by hot summer in foothills and valleys and by cool and cold summer in highlands as well as rigorous winters; important daily and annual variation in temperature; light cloudiness and significant dryness of the air. The sun shines for 2,500-2,700 hours per year. The heaviest clouds are in March-April and lightest are in August-September. Vertical temperature gradient – when temperature drops every 100 meters of elevation – is 0.7°C in summer, 0.6°C in autumn and spring and 0.5°C in winter. Annual precipitation is irregular and usually is between 200-300 and 1,600 millimeters. The maximum precipitation falls out during the first part of summer. Surrounding mountainous ranges of lake Issik-Kul form peculiar micro climate in the area. Landscape, climate, altitude of the snow line, vegetation and fauna of various regions of the Tien - Shan differ a lot. Total area of glaciers at the Kyrgyz part of the Tien-Shan is about 6580 kmI, which is almost 3.65% of the total area of territory of the country. It includes 700 big and small glaciers. Big part of glaciations of the Kyrgyz Tien-Shan is located in the eastern part including the Central Tien-Shan and Terskey, Akshyyrak, Kuylyu and Western Kokshaaltoo ranges. The largest glacier – the Southern Engylchek – stretches for 62 km. It is the third longest mountainous glacier in the world after the Baltoro glacier (Karakorum) in Pakistan and the Fedchenko glacier (Pamir) in Tajikistan. The widest place of the Southern Engylchek is 3 km and thickness of the ice reaches 200 meters.

B. Pamir.

Only the very northern part of Pamir belongs to Kyrgyzstan – the northern slopes of the Zaalayskiy ridge and the north of Pamir-Alay which includes the Turkestanskiy and Alay ranges. This part of the Pamir is characterized by latitudinal strike. The climate of the Pamir as well as of the Tien-Shan is acutely continental but differs in relative weather stability, less air humidity and bigger number of sunny days. Likewise, the heaviest clouds are in March-April and lightest are in August-September. The mountains of Pamir are composed with metamorphic, magmatic and sedimentary rocks. As a rule, central line consists of magmatic rocks which toward the periphery are superseded by metamorphic rocks and eventually by sedimentary ones.

II. ***Mountaineering regions of Kyrgyzstan***

A. Tien-Shan

A.1. Central Tien-Shan

A.1.1) Southern and Northern Engylchek Glaciers (figure 2)

Characteristic features. It is one of the most popular regions of the Tien-Shan with the famous summit – Khan-Tengri Peak (7010 m) (appendix 2, photos 1-15) and the highest peak – Pobeda (7439 m). One of the biggest glaciers in the world is situated here as well – the Southern Engylchek Glacier, stretching for 62 km, 3.5 km wide with ice thickness up to 200 m. 23 summits of the region are higher than 6,000 m and about 80 summits are between 5,000 to 6,000 meters. There are a lot of virgin summits among the latter. About 70 mountaineering routes were covered and among those 26 are on Khan-Tengri Peak and 9 on Pobeda Peak.

Location. The region is administrated by Aksuiskiy raion of Issik-Kul oblast. It's located in the very east of Kyrgyzstan on the border with Kazakhstan and China and includes such ranges as: Kokshaal-Too, Engylchek-Too, Saryjaz, Tengri-Tag and Meridonalnyi. In 2002, following the Sino-Kyrgyz intergovernmental border agreement of 1996, the upper part of the Engilchek glacier was transferred to China, covering a total area of approximately 161 square kilometers. The southern limits of the boundary line is a straight line approximately between Pic Ak-Too (6181 m) and Peak Khan Tengri (6995-7010 m). To the east the area borders the Tengri-Tag ridge to the junction with the southern range of Meridionalniy and the Unknown Peak (6747 m, never reach). To the west it is circumscribed by the rising ridge of Kokshaal-Too from Peak 6747 m to the Peak of Military Topographers to reach Pic Ak-Too by the north spur of Kokshaal-Too (Pic Chipilova) towards Pic Trekhglavniy and sliced the Engilchek glacier by its middle. Other parts further away from the territory were also ceded to China (Maybash-Too Crest, lower Uzengegush).

Season and Climate. Climbing season for summits above 6,000 m is July through August and for summits below 6,000 m season includes September as well. It's one of the most severe parts of the Tien-Shan. In summer usually first part of the day is sunny and later in the afternoon the sun gives way to clouds and snow. Sometimes weather changes for several days and it could snow for 2-3 days incessantly. The most stable weather is in August till mid of September but it's considerably colder. The average temperature in July is 5°C, 7°C in August and 3°C in September. Prevailing category of the routes are combined: snow and ice-snow. Slopes and tops are covered with snow and ice. Besides technical difficulties climbers also face such obstacles as rapid weather change when bad weather holding for several days can result in formation of avalanches and dangerous crevasses in the ice. As the rule, it takes one-two days for fresh snow to consolidate after heavy snowfalls.

Climbing history of the region. The first ascent marking the history of the region was done in 1934 to Khan-Tengri Peak by the expedition under Pogrebetskiy. Pobeda Peak was discovered in 1943 by the military topography expedition under Rapasov and was named after the victory over the Nazi Germany. It was first climbed in 1957 by the expedition under Vitaliy Abalakov. However, the other theory claims that there was earlier ascent in 1938 by the expedition under Leonid Gutman to the unknown summit located in the head of the Zvezdochka glacier and the summit was named "20 years to VLKSM (The Communist Union of Youth)". Photographs taken from the top by the 1938 expedition correspond to the ones taken from Pobeda Peak…. Until 1985 very few climbers were able to come to the region because of the disputable situation with Soviet-Chinese border, the part of which the Central Tien-Shan was. The new age of climbing history started in 1985 when the first joint Soviet-American Expedition in honor of the 40-th anniversary of the victory in II WW. That was also the turning point marking the change in balance between number of climbers killed on the mountain and number who successfully returned with the appreciable advantage in favor of survived. Before 1985 this correlation was 56 to 56. Since that time the region becomes the ground for various climbing competitions of different level of difficulty. Most of the routes were laid during those competitions. In the beginning of the 90-s the Kyrgyz Alpine Club conducted number of climbing races for individuals on Khan-Tengri Peak on the classic route through Semenovskiy glacier and the western edge. The record time from the base camp located at Gorkyi Peak up to the top and return was 10 hours and 8 minutes by Alex Lou.

Camps. International Travel and Mountaineering Center Tien-Shan runs the permanent base camp in the region (photo 16-18). There are five wooden huts with habitable rooms to accommodate 38 people, sauna and bathhouse, canteen, bar, kitchen, power station, helicopter landing area. Base camp is located at the foot of Gorkyi Peak at the altitude of 3,995 meters, on the right side moraine of the Southern Engylchek glacier. Seasonal base camps are set up at the moraine on the confluence of the Southern Engylchek and Zvezdochka glaciers.

Access. One of the possibilities to get to the region is by helicopter. It flies from transfer camps Maida-Adyr and At-Jailyau situated 18 km and 30 km respectively to the west of Sayjaz village in the Engylchek valley. It takes 30 minutes to fly or 4 days to walk from transfer camps to the base camps of the Southern Engylchek. There is no path good enough for horses to get to the camps. There is also flight from Karkara transfer camp located 80 km from Karakol town at the border of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in the Karkara river valley. Regular flights in the region start from mid July till end of August. One can get to the transfer camps Maida-Adyr and At-Jailyau by car from Karakol town (former name of town was Prjevalsk) which is situated 165 km and 185 km respectively by the mountain road over the Chon-Ashu pass (3,622 m)

Trekking path to the Southern and Northern Engylchek glaciers starts at the At-Jailyau camp and goes up to lake Merzbacher by geographical left side of the Southern Engylchek glacier at the crossing of the Southern and Northern Engylchek valleys. The path from the At-Jailyau river to the Shokalski glacier goes along left side of valley (if going upwards then along the right side) and takes 2 days. From the glade two different trails go to the Northern and Southern Engylchek. In order to get to the upper reaches of the Southern Engylchek one should take the trail heading along left side up to the Shokalskiy glacier (the first southern tributary of the Southern Engylchek glacier after Merzbacher glade) going up to the middle of the glacier along the central moraine up to the Zvezdochka glacier. There is number of base camps in the area for climbing upper reaches of the Southern Engylchek, Zvezdochka, Semenovskiy and Demchenko glaciers as well as Pobeda and Khan-Tengri peaks. Usually it takes about 2 days to get from Merzbacher glade to the Zvezdochka glacier. In order to get to the Northern Engylchek one should traverse the Southern Engylchek glacier northwest towards Bronenosez Peak at the west end of Tengri-Tag ridge. The very edge of the ridge ends with three passes. To get to the Northern Engylchek glacier one can through the middle pass only because the junction of the Northern and Southern Engylchek canyons is locked by lake Merzbacher which is impassable by its steep sides.

Climbing opportunities. The most popular climbing route to Khan-Tengri is along the western crib which can be accessed via the Southern Engylchek by Semenovski glacier as well as via the Northern Engylchek along the eastern “shoulder” of Chapaev peak. Both trails have avalanche hazards. However, one can minimize a hazard on the Semenovskiy glacier by passing dangerous areas of crevasses and seracs between 3 am and 6 am, because usually snow and ice avalanches in the area are possible after the sun touches southeast wall of Chapaev peak – the origin of avalanches. Therefore it’s strongly recommended to start off from ABC camp on the junction of the Northern and Southern Engylchek glaciers by 3 am.

Pobeda Peak is often climbed through Western Pobeda Peak which also has another name of Vaja Pshavela. Description of the most popular climbing itineraries to Pobeda and Khan-Tengri peaks as well as planning recommendations is attached.

Most of the climbers come to the area especially for Khan-Tengri and Pobeda Peaks. However, there are a lot of excellent summits below 7,000 m which will satisfy different climbing tastes. Clearly for mountaineers is the treasure island. Most of the routes to summits over 6,000 m are snow-ice but there are some rock walls, like northwest wall of Pogrebezkii peak.

All peaks over 6,000 m are located eastward of Erkindik peak (6,073 m) (former Kirov peak) in the Kokshaaltoo range, eastward of Gorkogo peak (6,050 m) in the Tengri-Tag range, in the range Meridional from Plato peak (6,146 m) in the north to peak of Voennih Topografov (Military Topographers) in the south. Most of the summits over 6,000 m have been climbed, however, since there is no information about ascents to some of them we consider those to be virgin. For example, according to P. I. Solomatin (2006) there is a virgin summit of 6,747 m between peaks Voennih Topografov and Rapasova. Traversing Pobeda and Khan-Tengri peaks the group by V. Khrichatov passed it and observed on the right. According to the existing resources, between the Demchenko and Drujba glaciers in the western spur of the Meridional ridge there are four 6,000 meter summits from peak Otkrityi [Discoveries] (5,664) m and peak Moris Torez (6,401m). Two summits of those four were climbed. These are Edelweiss peak (6,000 m) and Chokhan Valikhanov peak (6,110m). Another spur of the Meridional ridge has two virgin summits as well in the area of the Drujba and Nagel glaciers between peak Pogrebezkogo (6,487 m) and peak Drujba (6,800m). These several mentioned above are potential summits for first ascent. As for already climbed summits there are many opportunities for new routes of ascents.

Summits between 5,000 m and 6,000 m. Majority of peaks below 6,000m are considered unclimbed, however we don’t have reliable information on ascents especially in the area to the west of the Dikiy glacier. This is laborious task for research.

*Search and rescue supply. S*everal travel agencies run base camps in the described area. As the rule, they organize one joint rescue team for the region. There is regular communication between camps to coordinate rescue works if needed. The companies provide their customers with all necessary services. Participants of independent expeditions usually deliver everything they need themselves but if they run out of any equipment or food it’s possible to borrow (rent) or buy it in the base camps. All camps are equipped with satellite and radio connection for long-distance calls and ultrashort radio connection between camps and climbers on the routes.

This region is situated in the border area and special permit is required.

Cartography. Maps 1/50,000 k44-064-1 to 4 and k44-065-1 to 4, 1/100,000th k44-064 and k44-65.

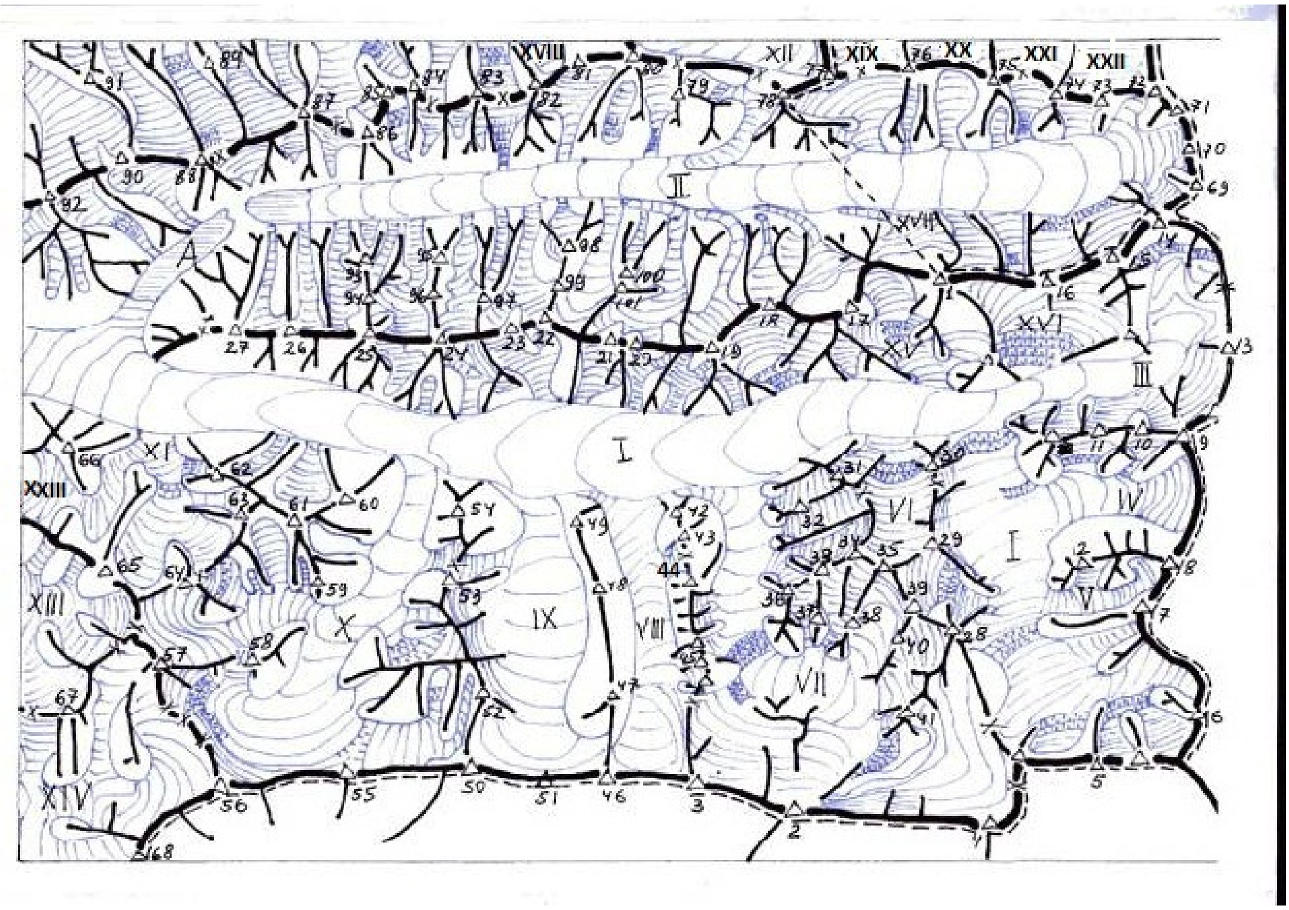


figure 2. Orographic map of glaciers Southern and Northern Engylchek, Central Tien-Shan

Peaks

1.Khan Tengri, 7010
2.Pobeda, 7439
3.Pobeda Ouest, Vaja Pshavela, 6928
4.Pobeda Est, 6762
5.Voennih Topographov, 6873
6.Rapassova, 6814
7.Nagelia, 6565
8.Drujba, 6800
9.Maurice Thorez, 6401
10.Edelweiss, 600
11.Otkrytiy, 5604
12.Pogrebetskogo, 6527
13.Zorge, 6210
14.Shater Est, 6637
15.Shater Ouest, 6637
16.Gutmana, 5810
17.Chapaeva, 6362
18.Abalakova, 5861
19.Maxime Gorki, 6050
20.5561
21.Sovietskoï Kirgizyi, 5650
22. Krupskoï 5480
23.Ryzhovo, 5350
24.Petrovskogo, 5860
25.Tyurina, 5478
26.Kolyada, 5211
27.Bronenosez, 4887
28.Chipilova, 6201
29.Aouezova, 5957
30.Moylina, 5285

Peaks (next)

31.Trekhglhavnyi, 5504
32.5200
33.5362
34.Pyramida, 5565
35.Aktau, 6181
36.Parashyutniy, 5360
37.5300
38.5581
39.5810
40.5304
41.Lavinnyi, 5204
42.Dikiy, 4832
43.Slancevyi, 4959
44.5125
45.5200
46.Neru, 6742
47.5300
48.4841
49.Pesni Abaya, 4901
50.6205.
51.6537
52.5631
53.5235
54.Bechevovka, 4905
55.5885
56.Kirova, 6073
57. Krasnoy Armiy 5736
58.5045
59.4962

Peaks (next)

60.5343
61.5581
62.5448
63.5132
64.5330
65.Shokalskogo, 5722
66.4867
67.5315
68.Kyuyuk-Kap-Boshy, 5558
69.100 Let RGO, Russkogo Geograficheskogo Objschestva, 6500
70.Prejhvalskogo, 6450
71.Marmonaya Stena, 6400 (Marble Wall, Paroi de marbre)
72.Platon, 6146
73.Karly-Too, 5450
74.5440
75.Kazakhstan, 5761
76.Bayankol, 5841
77.Odinnadcan, 5437
78.Semionova, 5816
79.Karsnova, 5378
80.Ignateva, 5488
81.5222
82.Piramida, 5332
83.5153
84.5152
85.5141
86.4871

Peaks (next)

87.Chehnaia Lestuya, 5167
88.Pioner, 5348
89.4322
90.5242
91.4205
92.5576
93.Sorokino, 4630
94.Sheklanovo, 4781
95.4350
96.Zarubskogo, 4550
97.Zhawzharova, 4901
98.5028
99.5072
100.Issledovateley, 5200
101.Verblyud, 5281

Glaciers

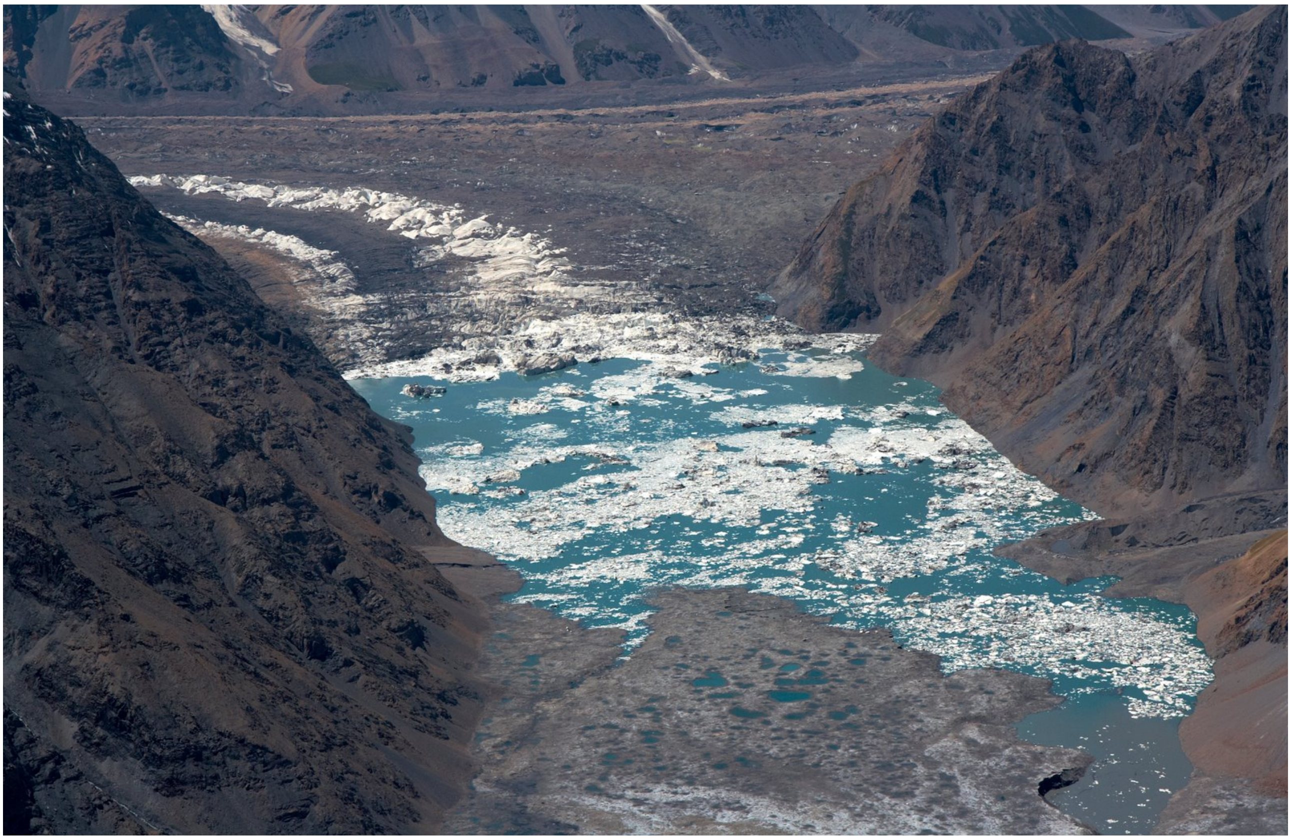
A. Lac Merzbacher
I. Southern Engylchek
II. Northern Engylchek
III. Demchenko
IV. Drujba (friendship)
V.Nagelia
VI.Severnyi
VII.Svezdochka
VIII.Dikyi
IX.Proletarskiy Tourist
X.Komsomolets
XI.Chokalskogo
XII.Semenova
XIII. Kaindy
XIV.Kyuyuk Kar
XV.Semenovskiy
XVI.Razorvonyi
XVII.Khan Tengri
XVIII.Mushketova
XIX.Bayankolskiy West
XX.Bayankolskiy East
XXI.Marmonaya Stena West
XXII.Marmonaya Stena East
XXIII.Chokalskogo

picture 1. Khan-Tengri Peak. 6,995m.

picture 2. Peak Pobeda massif. 7,439m.

picture 3. Central Tien-Shan, view from the plane

picture 4. Lake Merzbacher.



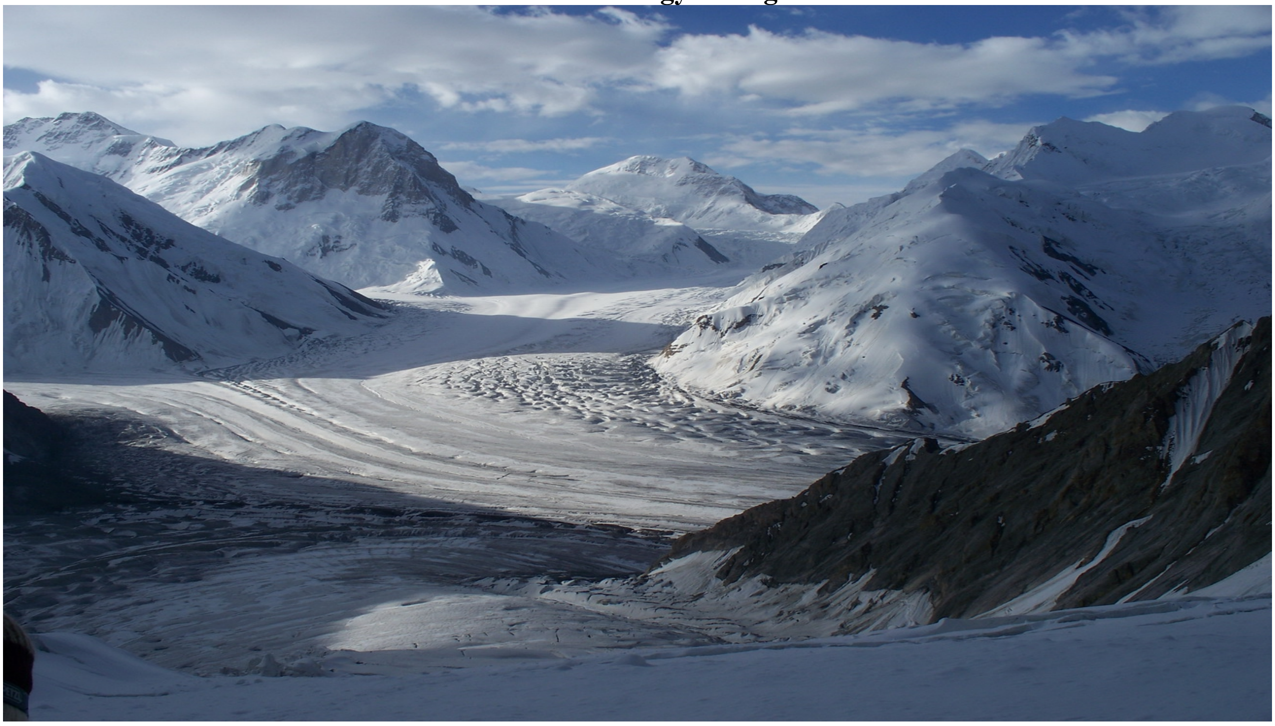
picture 5. Upper reaches of the Southern Engylchek glacier, Pobeda Range at the distance.

picture 6. Northern face of Khan-Tengri Peak. Foreground: nothern-east rib of the shoulder of Chapaev peak.

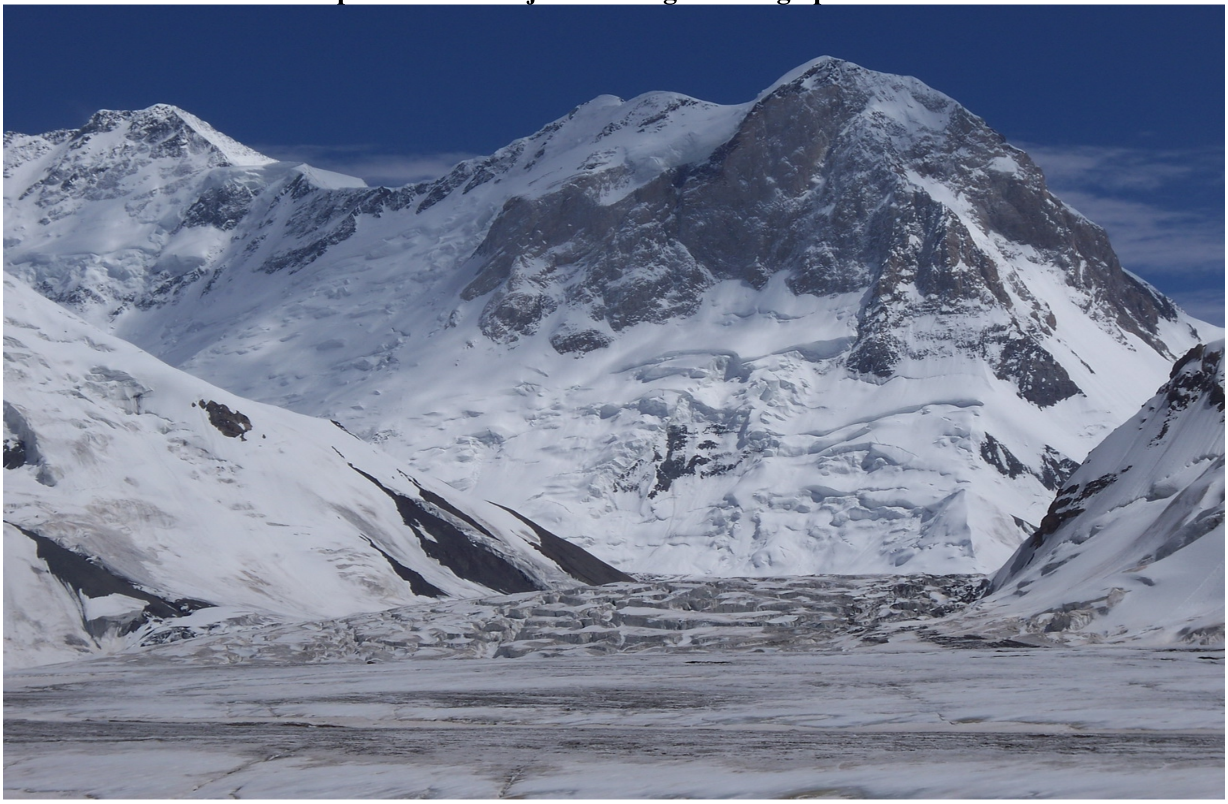
picture 7. “Sickles” of Khan-Tengri.

picture 8. The main top of Peak Pobeda, the Abalakov route.

picture 9. Peaks: Drujba, Pogrebezkogo, Voennih topographov in the upper reaches of the Southern Engylchek glacier.



picture 10. Drujba and Pogrebezkogo peaks.



picture 11. Peaks: Pobeda, Western Pobeda (Vaja Pjavel), Neru

picture 12. Chapaev peak and the Semenovskiy glacier

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picture 13. Avalanche on trail on the Semenovskiy glacier

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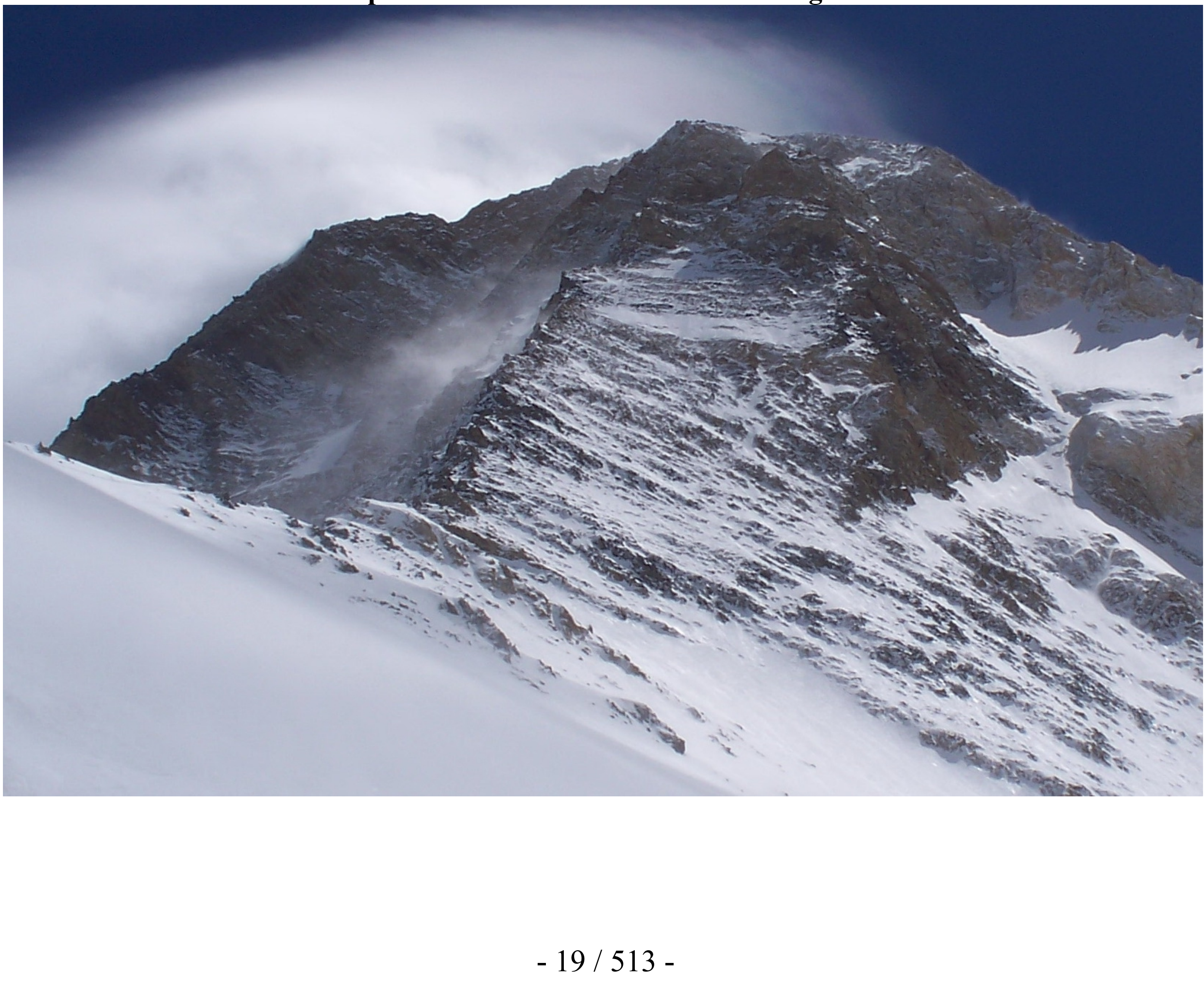
picture 14. Western rib of Khan-Tengri



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picture 15. Gorkogo Peak

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picture 16. Permanent base camp at the Southern Engylchek, under Gorkogo Peak

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picture 17. “Lounge“at the Southern Engylchek base camp

picture 18. Bar at the Southern Engylchek base camp.

Gleb Sokolov. About preparation to ascent Khan-Tengri and Pobeda peaks.

Gleb Sokolov is a famous Russian professional mountaineer. He has a lot of achievements, titles and regalia in alpinism. In this book we'll mention only Gleb's achievements in climbing in Engylchek area: 26 ascents to Khan-Tengri, 6 ascents to Pobeda, rapid 20 hour solo summit to Pobeda, climbing race to Khan-Tengri (14 hours), new route to Khan-Tengri from Semenovskiy glacier via "Zmeika" in pair, full solo-traverse of Pobeda, new route to Pobeda in pair, etc. One can hardly find better recommendations on climbing Khan-Tengri than his.

Gleb Sokolov. Ascents to Khan-Tengri and Pobeda peaks

PREPARATION

If you have no experience in climbing alone then don't try to climb Southern Engylchek by yourself. Team of 3-4 people is optimal for rendering first aid, belaying while crossing deep crevasses and getting you out of those, if needed.

One of the main recommendations is to combine the team of friends, climbers you know or climbed together before. Try to include at least one person with high-altitude climbing experience in the area. Try to avoid unfamiliar people and, especially beware of single beautiful girls. Appearances can be deceptive and as a rule, they are not very skillful and have quite nasty character which is usually thoroughly hidden while on the land. Who knows what follies they might reveal somewhere in the 4th camp at 6,400m. However, there might be exceptions. Think of the tactics and strategy of your expedition very thoroughly. Make a plan of acclimatization schedule, rest days and plan climbing part day by day. It's necessary to add 2-3 days in reserve. Don't hesitate to ask for advice from more experienced climbers. You have to have good training and should possess the skills of using rope, moving on the fixed ropes, setting up bivouacs, etc.

PERSONAL GEAR

Often things may go wrong just because of some little thing! That's why the main rule is not to use last day for adjusting gear and pack everything. Below is the list of equipment necessary for climbing Khan-Tengri, according to my experience.

Let's start with shoes. To my mind, the best boots for Khan-Tengri are La Sportiva Spantik, Scarpa Phantom 6000, Boreal G-1. In the last ones I traversed Pobeda, climbed Everest and Cho Oyu. For climbing Pobeda I'd advise warmer high-altitude boots, like La Sportiva Olympus Mons Evo, Scarpa Phantom 8000, Boreal G-1 Expe. If you are wearing Spantik, Phantom 6000 or G-1 make sure you have gaiters, which will protect your legs in critical situations. Very important to remember: don't try to save on high-altitude boots as well as on any altitude equipment! Fingers are not potatoes – will not grow back.

As for crampons, there is no certain recommendation. My favorite ones are Grivel 2F. They are lightweight, have good tackle, resist snow balling which is important. Snow shoes are recommended. I prefer MSR Denali or TSL 225-227 Rando.

My weatherproof clothing is: gore-tex windproof jacket and gore-tex bibs, two sets of thermals (thick ones and stretching ones). If the wind is strong I'd add another layer as windblock jacket and light down jacket and over trousers.

These are the basic clothing for acclimatization and ascent Khan-Tengri on classic route.
For climbing Pobeda I use – membrane bibs, polartec bibs, down jacket, light jacket, wind-block pullover and over trousers. No need to mention gloves and socks. You should have a very good stock of the latter in case of strong

wind and frost. You need two hats: one regular hat for hiking and walking at the mountain base and in the sun and one warm hat to protect from cold weather and wind. Good climbing clothing can not be cheap.

To protect from the bright sun you need to use good-quality sun glasses with high protection like JULBO or CEBE.

Ice axe is not a bare necessity while acclimatization and climbing Khan-Tengri, one or two per group will be enough for belaying wile crossing cracks on the Semenovsky glacier. However, if you plan to ascent Pobeda then everyone needs a good ice axe. Backpack 60-80 L will work fine. Standard harness with two gear loops for ascenders and belay carabiner. You'll also need figure 8 descender. Helmet will be of use only while moving on Semenovskiy glacier along the walls of Chapaev peak after 9 am. If you plan to pass here earlier you might not need a helmet. You must have warm down sleeping bag and thick sleeping pad.

TEAM GEAR

Rope - UIAA 20-30m will be enough for belay a group up to 4 people in the area of Semenovsky glacier. Two pieces of gas stove will feed a group. If we climb in groups of 2 we usually take 2 light stoves – JETBOIL (PCS) and SNOW PEAK GST-100. No need to write about cookware and spoons. It's better to use high-mountain tents because trekking tents are not proof for snow fall. You may use also extra tent for storing some equipment and food in first camp. You will need 2-3 ice-screws together with ice axes while crossing crevasses on Semenovsky glacier. You need ALWAYS have with you a roll of regular scotch tape. It's good for packing food and absolutely necessary for making stretchers out of poles, ice axes and tent stands, etc.

FOOD

For acclimatization treks and the ascent itself you will need altitude food. All information on variety and types you may find on various websites or ask experienced climbers. Just one important note: it's better to have surplus of food than not enough. Much better to have something left. If you take alcohol sometime I'd recommend have a bottle of a good cognac. It's a good medicine for hypothermia or tiredness. Almost any food can be bought in the stores or markets of Bishkek or Almaty. That's why it's better to plan 2-3 extra hours for shopping after arrival in any of the cities.

HEALTH

It is necessary to check your health before the trip. Visit physician, dentist. Take your personal first aid kit which should also contain pack of Panangin, aspirin Thrombo Ass, two packs of Trental (Pentoxifylline) 100 or 400. These medicines will help you avoid problems with dehydration, altitude and lack of oxygen. Don' t forget good eye drops for burn, acyclovir cream for herpes, sorbent for food poisoning. And of course, sun glasses and lip balm. Make sure to consult with camp doctor on how to take all medicine. And absolutely inevitable is life insurance.

FIRST DAYS ON THE GLACIER.

Hooray! You are on the glacier. Finally the dream comes true. Helicopter dropped you off and left, you got your place in base tent, sorted out your stuff…. What a pleasure! What's next? The main thing is not to fuss! Spend few days without much workout, listen to your body. This time is very important for the body to adjust to the altitude and acclimatize. Very important is not to overdo. Hike the moraines, walk to the nearest camps, and enjoy local flowers. First few days are the time for getting acquainted, finding new contacts and consultations.

FIRST CAMP (4,200 m)

This trek is going to be training with almost no altitude gain. You bring the equipment to the turn from where you will start serious trek next day. No major hazards, beside the rivers on the glacier. Be aware of rivers, try to get around them or cross with harness by the snow bridges. There is very little chance to survive if you get into the river. Several minutes in the ice cold water kill a person.

CAMP #2 (5,300m)

Now it's time for real workout. After the night in the first camp start early morning to reach Semenovsky glacier. Tactics and strategy of this trek depend on weather and snow conditions on the glacier. If the path leading up is not buried under the snow you may start off there using fixed ropes. If there is too much snow then it's wise to let more experienced groups go first. Don't procrastinate with the start but also don't rush. You must see the sunrise with the first steep ascent. The main danger here is hanging glacier and thus ice fall, so-called "bottle". You must always see and know where to run in case of ice fall. In general, it's better to shelter on the left side to the face of Chapaev peak. You have 5-6 seconds to escape falling ice. In 2004 several groups started off too early and couldn't orient themselves in the dark. As the result, 11 people died. Need to mention that ice falls happen at any time of day regardless of the sun positon. Because of this hazard you must pass dangerous parts of the route as fast as you can, don't spare yourself or your team partners.

In the middle of the first steep part there are a lot of deep traverse crevasses sometimes stretching from one edge of the glacier to the other. From this part to the camp side # 2 you need to move with ropes.

The route becomes a bit easier after the "bottle" part in the middle of the glacier. You must be at this point not later than 7.30 am to be able to cross the narrow part, so-called "neck". Keep in mind that there are big snow fields over the "bottle" and dust avalanches are possible in the morning if it was snowing before and after 8 am there is a danger of wet avalanches. If you are late and reached the glacier behind the bottle after 8 am and have no time to pass the "neck" before 10 am then you'd better find shelter in the middle of the glacier in the place protected from the avalanches with seracs. In this case you'll reach the camp #2 only by the evening because you can start moving only after the sun leaves the walls of Chapaev peak and avalanches and stone falls stop. You may need to use snowshoes because the snow is quite deep and can reach up to your waist.

The path takes left to the "neck" by the walls of Chapaev peak. From 9.30 am it's time for wet avalanches and falling stones at Chapaev peak. Try to cover this dangerous part before that. If you happen to be caught by avalanche there NEVER JUMP INTO CREVASSE! Usually you always have few seconds to run from snow and stones. As the last resort, your team will dig you out. But if you jump into crevasse most probably you may fall for 30-40 meters. Following the right time schedule you'll reach a safe place by 12.00 and it will be your camp #2 (5,300m)

In different seasons, the path along the "bottle" can follow under the slopes of Khan-Tengri and then turn back to the "neck". In this case the main danger of ice fall is on the right side. NEVER make a stop in this place and pass it as fast as you can!

Sometimes because of little amount of snow or insufficient acclimatization climbers can set up an intermediate camp between the "bottle" and the "neck". NEVER do it! Gigantic cornice on the top of Chapaev can sometimes fall down. And don't forget about stone falls as well. The hike between camp #1 and #2 is most dangerous in the second part of august when glaciers are warmed up and become very active.

CAMP #3

With good health and acclimatization you may risk and try to reach the bridge passing camp #2 by and by doing this you will reduce time for adjusting to the altitude. If there is a path and hard пйчй you will be able to cover the distance between camp #2 and #3 for 2-3 hours. But if the snow is deep and path is not obvious it'll take you 4-6 hours. Snow shoes will be of big help!

There is no technical difficulties while ascent and no need to rope. Crevasses are obvious and easy to walk round. Take into consideration sun and its effect on the body. Start off earlier to get in the sun closer to the bridge. If you plan to take a rest at the bottom then keep in mind that next time you'll cover much faster the distance between camps 1 and 2 and you may escape the night in camp #2. Keep going up. Camp #3 is few snow caves and lots of tents in bergschrund. You can choose where to set up your camp but take into consideration that ice can sometimes fall. NEVER put your tent on the slope under the bridge. Sometimes during storms big layers of snow slide few meters down and you can be trapped. It's better if in advance you arrange a place in a cave with the camp manager at the bottom.

TACTICS AND STRATEGY OF ASCENDING KHAN-TENGRI PEAK.

With enough acclimatization, experience and strength you can summit the peak from the camp #3. By going from bridge to bridge it'll take you from 4 to 10-15 hours and longer. Don't try to beat the records and estimate 12-13 hours. If you are not sure of your abilities it's better to spend the night in camp #4 (6,400m) from where round trip to the top and back will tae 2-10 hours. This can also be additional acclimatization if you plan to ascent Pobeda peak. Camp site can fit 3 additional tents of the medium size. Also few tents can be set up on the grounds a bit lower. From camp #3 up to the top you must move only with crampons and harness. From 6,100 m there are fixed ropes up to the tripod on the top and you don't need your rope.

When summiting Khan-Tengri from camp #3 you must have down jacket, extra gloves, warm over trousers, thermos with hot tea, light snack and small first aid kit in your backpack. You must leave the camp by 4 am or 5 am. Don't forget a headlight. It's very cold and windy early in the mornings and you should be dressed very well, it's easier later to put extra layers in the backpack then suffer sever cold. Usually between noon and 14.00 on the top the wind drops a little bit. You should be aware of the strong snow fall while descending when approaching a bridge. The visibility drops, footprints are covered with snow and it's very easy to turn to cornice. In this case it's better to stop and wait till it clears out a bit.

Listen to your body. If you feel short breath, your limbs numb and loose tempo you should tell about this to your partners. Turn around and go back. Maybe it's just safety measures but maybe these are the signs of serious illness and you can save time when you still walk yourself and people can help you. Rescue works are very difficult on the altitude of 6,000m or 7,000 m. It requires dozens of people and can be dangerous for rescue team as well. The example is the descent in 2006 from 6,400 m of O.Rumyanzeva who got very sick. By sheer luck, there were a lot of experienced climbers on the mountain and they were able to bring her down to the helicopter but violating safety rules. Pure luck. But many of those who had to become rescuer didn't summit the peak and destroyed their plans. Be alert, take care of your health but not at the price of health and time of other's.

DESCENT TO THE BASE CAMP

Descent is the part of your climbing of the same importance as ascent. You'll experience the same hazards as climbing up. If you start off the bridge by 5 am then you might be at the turn by 7.30 am – 8 am. And from there it's a stone's throw to the camp, sauna and good dinner.

You can ascend even in the afternoon and in the evening. The probability of big avalanches is minimal. The only obstacle might be the absence of crust. However, snowshoes may help to solve this problem. But be aware that snow around crevasses is soft and bridges are weak. In bad weather conditions you may use GPS navigator, especially moving on Semenovsky glacier in fog.

TACTICS AND STRATEGY OF ASCENDING POBEDA PEAK.

Usually more experienced climbers dare to climb Pobeda peak. As a rule, good acclimatization and climbing Khan-Tengri precede the ascent to the most northern 7,000m peak. However, by statistics many climbers summit Khan-Tengri but only few people reach the top of Pobeda. Why? There are several reasons. The peak is higher, distances are longer. You are in different climate, weather conditions – tremendously strong damp wind or on the contrary complete calm but meters of avalanche snow. All “easy” routes on the top are very dangerous. Few hours of bad weather and you are trapped. The danger of avalanche will not let you move neither up nor down. All routes to Pobeda are on the northern side and snow solidifies as fast as on Semenovsky glacier. You have to wait. And waiting alternates with bad weather, etc. That is why you need have big supply of warm clothing, food and gas.

Good acclimatization is COMPULSORY! Mostly people die on the mountain because of bad acclimatization. I don’t mind to climb Khan-Tengri 2 or 3 times before ascending Pobeda. Makes it easier. Make sure you know approximate weather forecast. Areas with most snow need to be covered in good weather. The access to ABC camp at Pobeda takes about 4-6 hours. To find your way on Zvezdochka glacier is much easier with GPS navigator. Upper part of the glacier is usually closed. Lots of crevasses. It’s better to move in the first part of the day and with ropes. Ask for advice from experienced climber where better and safer place to set up ABC is. Choosing wrong location can endanger the camp and huge ice and snow falls can destroy it.

At the stretch between Dikiy pass and Vaji Pjavel top, the safest places for camps are the pass itself (6,400m) under “the big bolders” and areas on Chinese side of Vaji Pjavel. When camping on 5,800 m try to get inside the snow caves, because there is the risk of stones falling from the slopes above and sometimes even avalanches in bad weather. The bivouac at 6,700m is not protected well enough. It is quite possible with good acclimatization and weather to pass the ridge of Vaji Pjavela with one night on 6,400m and thus avoiding 5,800 and 6,700m points. Otherwise, when stopping in all camps you MUST take into consideration snow conditions.

It’s 4-8 hours from Vaji Pjavel up to the top by the solid snow. And 2-4 hours for return. So, estimate your resources and if you don’t feel strong enough or there is a lot of snow then make one more stop before “Verblud” (camel) or “Obelisk”. Keep in mind that snow-ice ridge between Vaji Pjavel and Obelisk has a lot of hidden crevasses. Most probably you will need to use rope on the preapical ridge. Nowadays, you need to traverse a lot of its front jags with ice axe belaying, unlike in 1992-93 when an ordinary ice axe was enough. The rope is COMPULSORY! Consider this when scheduling the time. The easiest route to the top is via Vaji Pjavel peak. Certain weather conditions are required for other routes. As well as significant high-altitude experience, acclimatization, good team cohesion and good quality equipment. If one of these constituents is missing or not reliable – don’t risk. Come back next year. Mountains are always there! It’s better to come back 10 times than not to return once! Better safe than sorry!

P.S. All my recommendations are based on my own experience and on certain situations over the last 20 years. I definitely missed something and made casual mention of other things. That’s why, this article is not a dogma but only guide for action.

Gleb Sokolov

A.1.2) The Kaindy glacier, the ranges of Engylchek-Too and Kaindy-Katta

The area is situated to southwest of the Southern Engylchek glacier and it includes the Kaindy and Terekty glaciers (also known as Kuykap glacier on the maps). The climate is similar to the Southern Engylchek glacier, however it's slightly warmer in the area. It's not as popular among climbers as the neighboring region. The average altitude of summits is up to 6,073 m (Peak Erkindik, junction with Kokshaal-Too range), a goal less attractive for an area less accessible. However there is big amount of unclimbed peaks in the area. The routes are mostly combined, ice-snow and snow itineraries with elevation of 1,000m – 1,500m.

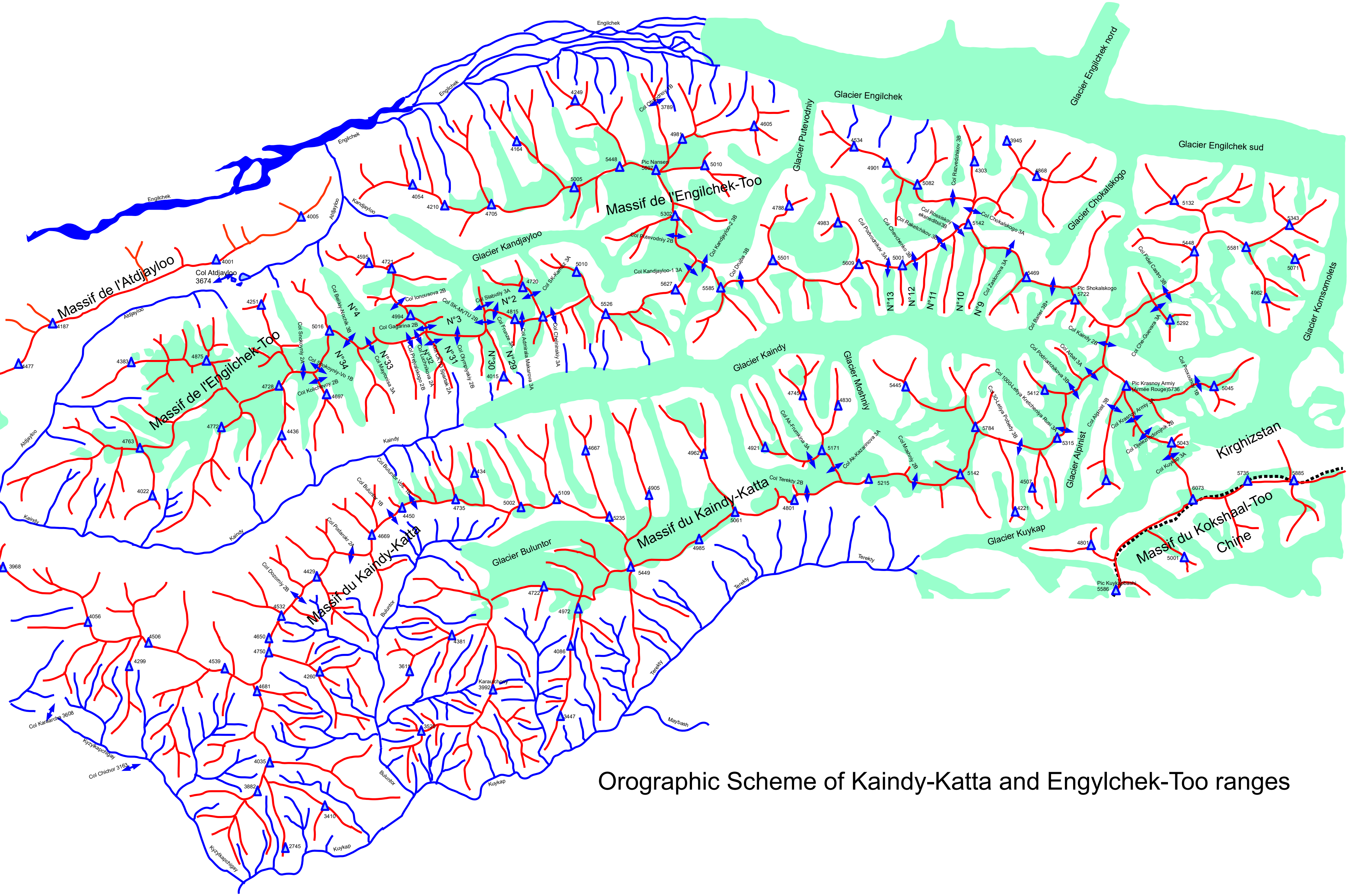
North of Kaindy glacier is the Engylchek-Too ridge with its highest peak Shokalskogo at 5722 m, with the impressive Peak Nansen 5697 m, climbed for the first time in 1936. To the south is the ridge Kaindy Katta culminating at Peak Red Army 5736 m.

The early exploration at the foot of the glacier Kaindy has been made by the expedition of 1903 of Gotfried Merzbacher, crossing the At-Jailoo Pass (3674 m) from the Engylchek Valley.

The first mountaineering expeditions were here in 1995. The region can be reached both by helicopter and by car and porters. It takes 45 minutes to fly from Maida-Adyr camp. The car route consists of several legs: first 150 km by asphalt road from Karakol town to Engylchek village over the Chon-Ashu pass and further about 10 km by rough mountain road in the Kaindy valley, then 20 km on natural terrain by the off-road vehicle. To get to the upper reaches of the glacier from the last moraine of the Kaindy glacier which is the furthest point to where a vehicle can go it takes about two days to hike. There is no porter service available in the area and if needed porters have to be hired and transported from Karakol town.

This region is situated in the border area and special permit is required.

Cartography. Maps 1/50,000 k44-064-3 and 4 and 1/100,000 k44-064.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Glacier Kandjayloo
Massif de l'Atdjayloo
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Massif de l'Engilchek-Too
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Glacier Moshniy
Glacier Alpinist
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Pic Nansen
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Pic Kuykapbashi
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Orographic Scheme of Kaindy-Katta and Engylchek-Too ranges

A.1.3) The Semenov and Mushketov glaciers, ranges of Adyrtor and Sarydjaz

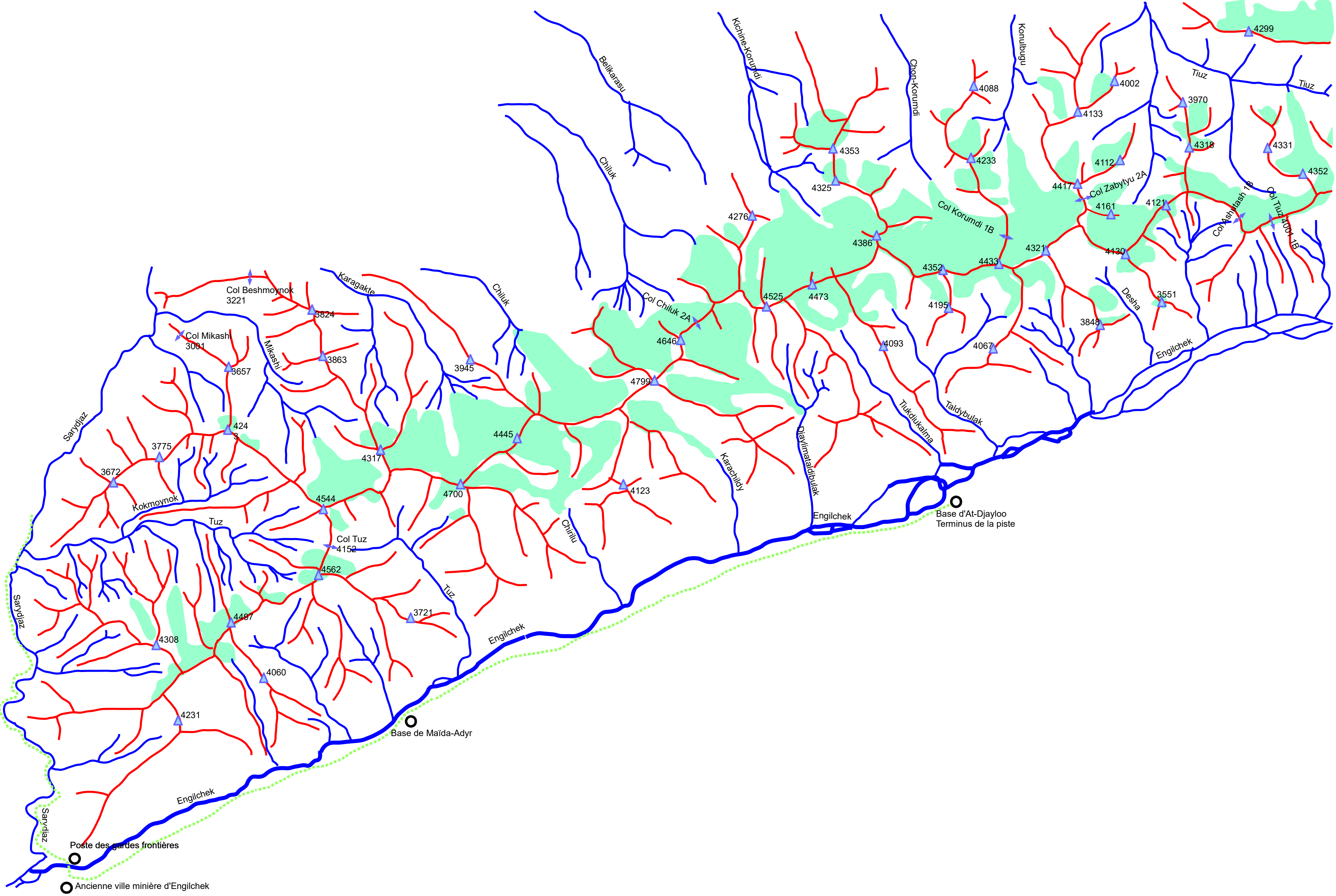
This area is situated north of Engylchek glacier, bordering Kazakhstan. Glaciers Semenov and Mushketov are divided by the small Adyrtor ridge and situated north of the Northern Engylchek glacier between eastern edges of the Terskey, Katta-Ashutor and Sarydjaz ranges. In fact, there is no information about climbing in the area. The first glacier explorations were also carried out by the Gotfried Merzbacher expedition of 1903 crossing passes from the Bayankol Valley. Since then there is very little information on the alpine activity. It seems that some summits to the south of the Mushketov glacier and upper reaches of the Semenov glacier were climbed from the Bayankol and Northern Engylchek glaciers however this information is not reliable.

Some maps show names and quotations of certain passes, indicating that they were probably climbed. However the American Alpine Club Web site currently lists some climbs in the area, including two expeditions of 2005 and 2010 by David Lim who made six ascents: Ong Teng Cheong Peak 4.763m (North-East of Siguitova Peak), Temasek , Singapura I 4.550m, Peak Kongsberg 4.468m, Peak Resilience 4.447m and Peak Majulah 5.152m.

The region can be accessed by off-road vehicle from Karakol town over the Chon-Ashu pass. First the road goes along the Ottuk river until it inflows into the Sarydjaz river and then follows its right bank up to frontier post Echkilitash. By the confluence of the Tuz and Sarydjaz rivers there is a car bridge to the left bank of the Sarydjaz river. Further the natural terrain road goes on the left bank up to the river Adyrtor and then along it in direction of the Mushketov glacier. There are a lot of slope swamps, bogs and gullies in the area. It’s hard to estimate up to where a vehicle can go as there are lots of effecting factors like experience and skills of a driver, and terrain itself which changes every season. The Semenov glacier can be reached on both left and right banks of the Sarydjaz river. It’s possible to hike and use horses to transport the load from where the vehicle brings you up to the base camp grounds. Horses can be rented from herdsmen who stay au in the area with cattle for summer period.

This region is situated in the border area and special permit is required.

*Cartography***.** Semenov, maps 1/50,000th k44-053-3 and 4 and 1/100,000th k44-052, k44-053 and k44-065 ; Mushketov maps 1/50,000th k44-064-2 and 1/100,000th k44-064.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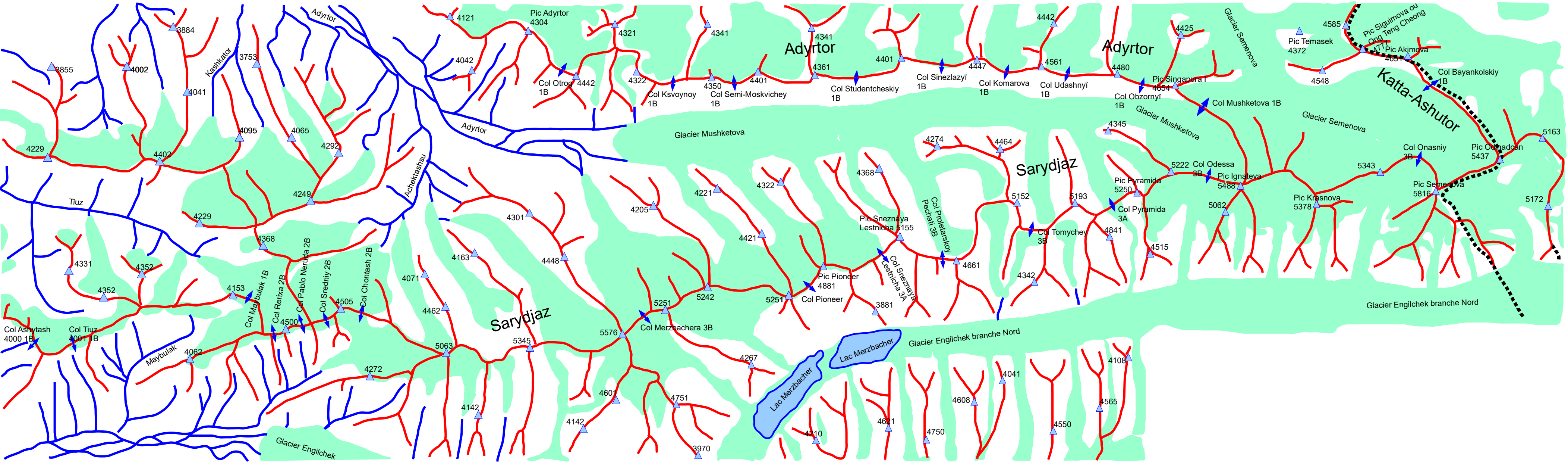
Base de Maïda-Adyr
Engilchek
Sarydjaz
Poste des gardes frontières
Ancienne ville minière d'Engilchek

Orographic Scheme of Sarydjaz – Western Part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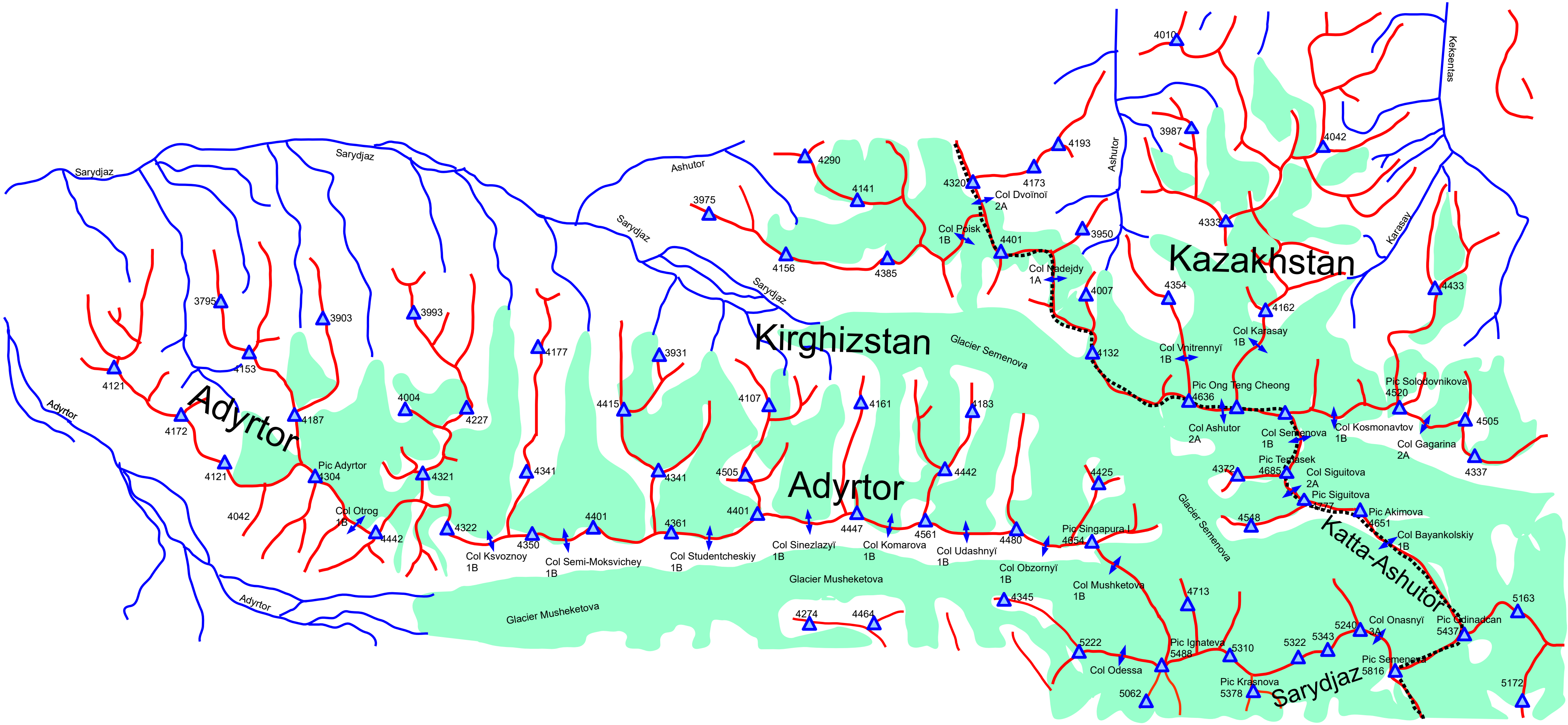
Sarydjaz
5163
Col Onasniy
3B
Pic Osmadcan
5437
Achektashsu
4249
Tiuz
4229
4221
4322
4368
5222
Col Odessa
3B
Pic Ignateva
5488
5343
Pic Semenova
5816
5172
4205
Col Proletarskoy
Pechati 3B
5152
5193
Pic Pyramida
5250
Col Pyramida
3A
Pic Krasnova
5378
5062
4301
Pic Sneznaya
Lestnicha 5155
Col Tomychey
3B
4841
4368
4331
4352
4163
4448
4421
4515
Col Sneznaya
Lestnicha 3A
4661
4342
Pic Pioneer
4881
4071
Col Maybulak 1B
Col Rerixa 2B
Col Pablo Neruda 2B
Col Sredniy 2B
Col Chontash 2B
4153
4352
4505
4500
4462
Sarydjaz
5251
5242
5251
Col Pioneer
3881
Glacier Engilchek branche Nord
Col Ashutash
4000 1B
Col Tiuz
4001 1B
Maybulak
4062
5063
5345
5576
Col Merzbachera 3B
Lac Merzbacher
Glacier Engilchek branche Nord
4272
4267
Lac Merzbacher
4108
4041
4608
4565
4601
4751
4142
4142
4621
4210
4750
4550
3970
Glacier Engilchek

Orographic Scheme of Sarydjaz – Eastern Part


4010
Keksentas
3987
4042
4193
Ashutor
4290
4141
4320
Col Dvoïnoï
2A
4173
3950
Ashutor
3975
Sarydjaz
Sarydjaz
Sarydjaz
Sarydjaz
4156
4385
Col Poisk
1B
4401
Col Nadejdy
1A
4333
Kazakhstan
Karasay
4433
4007
4354
4162
Kirghizstan
Glacier Semenova
4132
Col Karasay
1B
Col Vnitrennyï
1B
3795
3903
3993
4177
3931
4153
4121
Adyrtor
4004
4227
4415
4107
4161
4183
Pic Ong Teng Cheong
4636
Pic Solodovnikova
4520
4505
Col Ashutor
2A
Col Semenova
1B
Col Kosmonavtov
1B
Col Gagarina
2A
4337
Adyrtor
4172
Adyrtor
4187
4121
Pic Adyrtor
4304
4321
4341
4341
4505
4442
4425
4372
Pic Temasek
4685
Col Siguitova
2A
Pic Siguitova
4777
Pic Akimova
4651
4548
4042
Col Otrog
1B
4442
4322
4350
4401
4361
4401
Adyrtor
4447
4561
4480
Pic Singapura I
4654
Glacier Semenova
Katta-Ashutor
Col Bayankolskiy
1B
Col Ksvoznoy
1B
Col Semi-Moksvichey
1B
Col Studentcheskiy
1B
Col Sinezlazyï
1B
Col Komarova
1B
Col Udashnyï
1B
Col Obzornyï
1B
Col Mushketova
1B
Glacier Musheketova
Glacier Musheketova
4345
4713
Adyrtor
4274
4464
5222
Pic Ignateva
5488
5310
5322
5343
5240
Col Onasnyï
3A
Pic Odinadcan
5437
5163
Col Odessa
5062
Pic Krasnova
5378
Sarydjaz
Pic Semenova
5816
5172

Orographic Scheme of Adyrtor

A.1.4) Akshyyrak (figure 9)

Akshyyrak range is located to the south of western brink of lake Issik-Kul in the middle between lake shore and border with China. Climate of the area is similar to the central Tien-Shan one but slightly milder. Annual precipitation is 700 mm. The heaviest precipitation fall in spring and beginning of summer, the least is in winter. The average temperature of winter is -16°C, of spring and autumn is -7°C, temperature of July and August is +4°C and of September is +0.5°C. The highest altitude here is 5,126 m. Glaciation is very significant and quite often glaciers slide down from the passes and mountain tops. Elevation is 700 meters and in eastern part reaches 1,000 m (area of the peak 5,126). The biggest glacier is Petrov, 14 km long sliding to north in the central part of northern slope of the range. 10 km long glacier of Jaman-Su is located in the eastern part of the range. The Karasai Severnii glacier is 10km long and the Kaindi glacier is 8 km and both are situated in the western part. There are about 130 glaciers in the range with total area of 450 square kilometers. Glaciers are situated above 3700 m. There are great conditions for ski touring almost all year round except second half of August and in September is the time when ice outcrops. Most of the routes are combined, on snow and ice or snow-icy and snowy. There are no high vertical walls. Routes are easy and moderate and only northern and southern slopes of 5,126m peak are rated as difficult. One can find lots of possibilities for first ascent and new routes.

On the north side of the range is the largest gold mine in the country, on the Kumtor River, operated by a Canadian firm. On the other hand just to the north is established the great nature reserve of Sarychat-Ertash sheltering the largest preserved population of snow leopard. There large herds of Argali (mouflon) and Ibex (Capra Ibex Siberica or Siberian ibex, "Teke") abound there.

The northern, western and southern regions of the range are easily accessible by car from the south shore of Lake Issyk-Kul, taking the road to Barskaun, the first village encountered, then following the 100-150 km gravel road through the Barskaun Pass, after a bifurcation before the climb of the Suek pass, we reach the upper reaches of the Arabel River, descending by its left bank towards the Kumtor valley (on the Right bank) to join the mining site to the northwest of the range. You can also continue further south by following the Suek pass, then reaching the village of Karasai, for finally arrriving at the southern and southeast parts. The crossing through the Akbel pass (3833) from the junction of the Arabel and Kumtor valleys is not possible per vehicle. The road to Karasay avoids the mining concession. However the southern route is likely not to be cleared of snow at the passes early in the season. A late-spring skiyng expedition is therefore hard to organize, with mid-July and August being the best months for high altitudes journeys. An expedition can also be started on the western slope downstream of the control points on the runway at the mining site, for example by walking northwards and southwards to the Bordu glaciers. The concession bypass maneuvers only increase the access time to the mountain. In general, walking time from the road terminus to the starting point of the climbs is usually about 2-3 days.

As far as access to this range is concerned, it is not so much its geographical situation and its potential isolation that make it uncommon, but rather its administrative situation. The range is indeed under four different access regimes. The first zone concerns the west-north-west part around the glaciers Davydova, Lycyi (Bald) and Sary-Tor Yuj. (south). The mouth of each of its glaciers is indeed situated on the concession of the gold mine of Kumtor. It is also difficult to get to the Petrov glacier, although this glacier is not in the property of the company Kumtor. The mine is operated by a Canadian company, the region's main employer, is also the subject of a major environmental controversy: pollution of the Barskaun waters in Lake Issyk-Kul, ecological catastrophe by the partial destruction of the terminal tongue of the Davydova glacier. Numerous people demonstrations took place in the district of Issyk-Kul to ask for the light on pollution. To this must be added in 2012, an unlimited strike of the Kyrgyz workers of the mine for salary increase. It is therefore not surprising that the mining authorities are on the nerves. In other words, the mining authorities do not like to see too closely visitors who can testify of their misdeeds on the mountain. In this context of mistrust, safety and surveillance measures are very strict on the access points of the tracks well downstream of the territory of the mine. Access permissions are all the more difficult to obtain. Some expeditions have thus systematically bypassed the territory of the concession in order to achieve their goal.

The Sarychat-Ertash State Nature Reserve is in the north-east of the Akshyyrak Mountains. It is confined to the West, South-West and South by the Petrov and Djaman-Suu glacier basins and the upper Kurgak-Tepchi River before the tributary flows into the Ertash River, as well as the Ertash and Sarychat rivers. To access the reserve it is compulsory to have a special permit. The administrative authorities issuing this permit are located in Barskoon village (south shore of Lake Issyk-Kul).

The South-South-East zone of the Akshyyrak range is in access to border areas. Only the South-West zone is unrestricted. It is therefore important to get information from Kyrgyz trekking and mountaineering organizations before thinking an expedition in the area. These organizations will be able to smooth out any administrative difficulties that may arise along the path of your exploratory ambitions.

The southern region is in the border area and special permit is required.

Cartography. Maps 1/50,000 k44-73-1 to 4 and 1/100,000 k44-73.

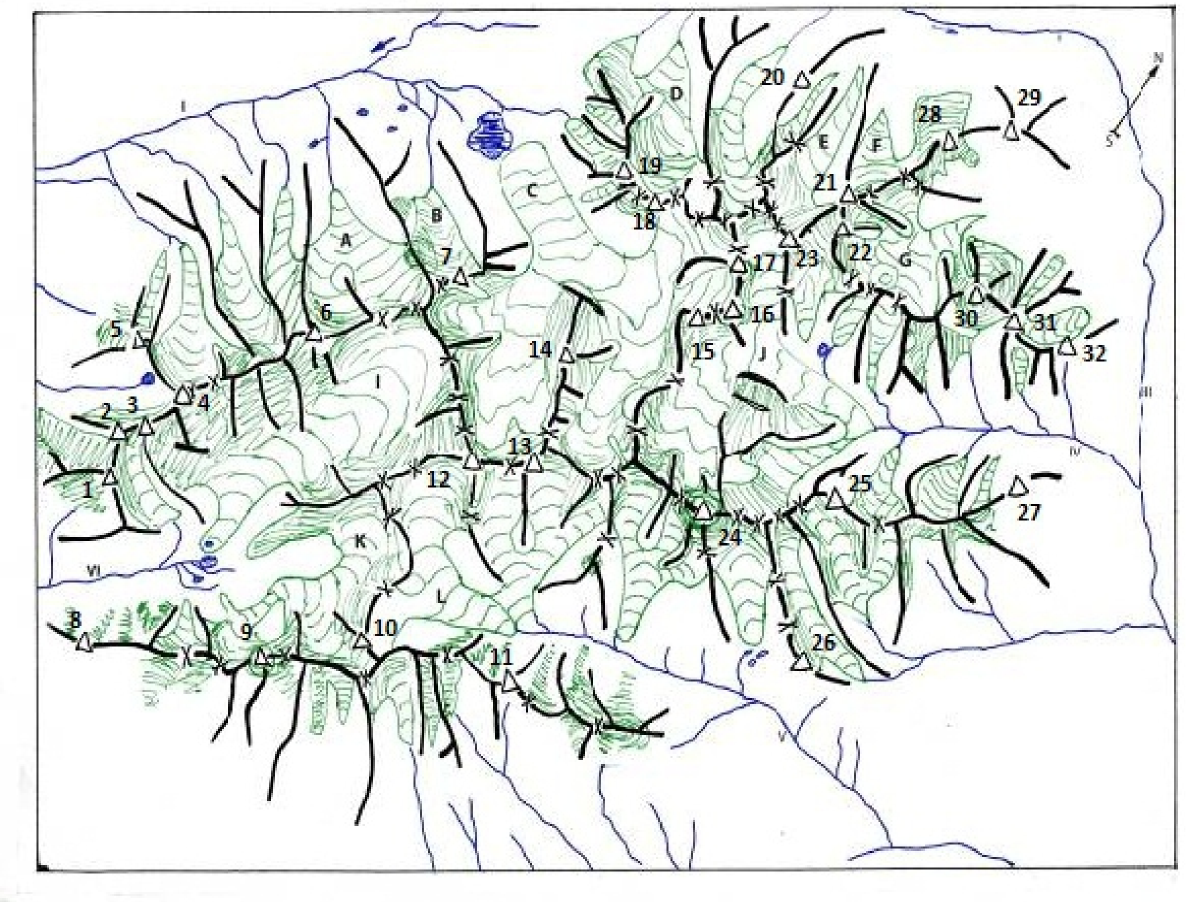


figure 9. Orographic map of Akshyyrak range

Peaks	**Peaks (next)**	**Peaks (next)**	**Glaciers**	**Rivers**
1.4498	16.4727	31.4921	A.Davydova	I.Kumtor
2.4560	17.4901	32.4601	B.Lysyi	II.Sarychat
3.4720	18.4800		C.Petrova	III.Irtysh
4.4713	19.4764		D.Sarytor	IV.Djaman-Suu
5.4492	20.4081		E.Oroy	V.Kaindy
6.4946	21.5046		F.Oroy Vostochnii (Est)	V.Karasai
7.4816	22.5150		G.Chomay	
8.4674	23.4920		I.Karasay Severnii (Nord)	
9.4826	24.5100		J.Djaman-Suu	
10.4983	25.5125		K.Karasai Uznii (Sud)	
11.4727	26.4538		L.Kaindy	
12.4916,0	27.4500			
13.4916,8	28.4691			
14.4649	29.4522			
15.4890	30.4661			

A.1.5) Kuylyu range (figures 10a and 10b, photo 46)

The region is situated in the Issyk-Kul oblast to the south of Terskey Ala-Too ridge in the interfluves: the Kuilu river in the north, the Uchkul in the south, the Sarydjaz in the east and the Irtash in the west. The range stretches for 50 km to the north-west.

Mountaineers explored the area in two main stages. First stage was during so-called pre-perestroika, when the highest peak Konstituzii and surrounding peaks were climbed. The first exploratory expedition under A.A. Letaeva in 1936 had established the highest peak of the ridge. In the following year of 1937 the group of climbers led by I. Cherepov as a part of the second expedition to the Kuylyu under Letavet had made the first ascent to the highest summit of the range. The summit was named Peak Stalinskoi Konstituzii (Stalin Constitution). Later in 70-s-80-s the peak was re-named into peak Sovetskoi Konstituzii and nowadays it's just peak Konstituzii. During the second expedition the neighboring peak was summitted and named Peak Karpinskogo (5,025m). In 1956 another expedition under B.Gavrilov developed new routes to 6 summits including one 5,000m peak and named it Obrucheva (5,203m). Two more expeditions to peak Konstituziy explored the region in 1973 and 1977. In the late 80-s several expedition of main geological purpose were organised.

Second period took place during post-perestroika characterized by the expeditions to the easiest accessible and "untrodden" regions. For Kuylyu it's the Northern sub-region. The new stage of exploration was started by the expedition to the Karator canyon by the International School of Mountaineering (ISM) under Pat Littlejohn in 2000. Since 2000 there have been more than 10 expeditions to the Kuylyu upper reaches.

Altitude reaches 5,281 m (Konstituzii) relief is more dissected then one of the Akshyyrak with elevation up to 1,100m. Among numerous glacier bowls there are a lot of rocky walls and various stages of icefall. Majority of peaks are unclimbed which gives good perspective for first ascents and new routes. The range of difficulty is quite wide from the easy routes to moderate and very difficult ones. Mountains are formed by metamorphic and igneous rock. There are monolithic and fractured rocks depending on its type. Four main sub-regions can be identified in Kuylyu region, such as the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western. Each region has different access and development. First three can be easily accessed by gravel road from Karakol town via Chon-Ashu pass (3,622m) by off-road vehicle.

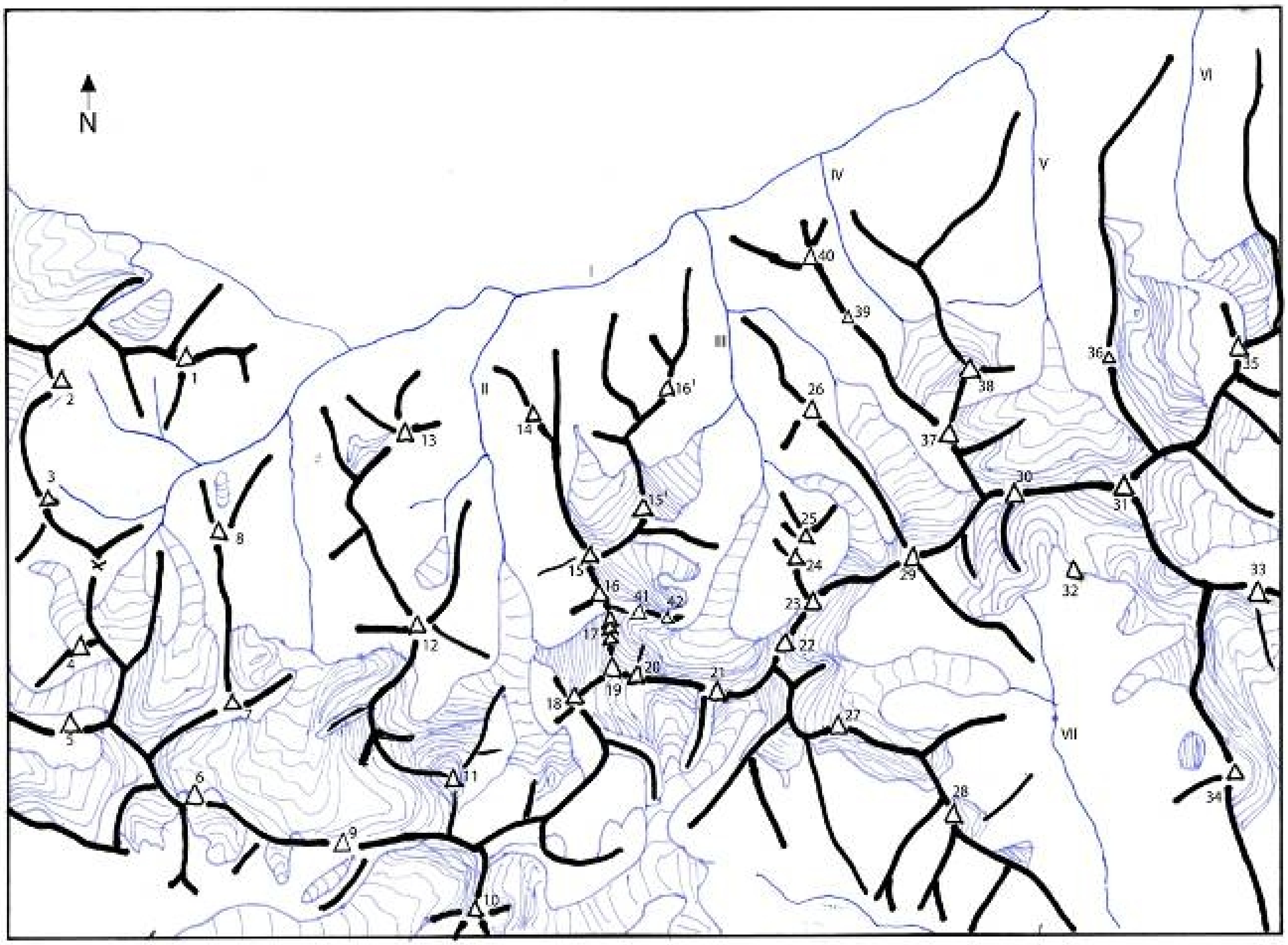
The Northern sub-region. The first expedition to the region was in 2000. It was the expedition of International School of Mountaineering (ISM) to Karator gorge under leadership of Pat Littlejohn. The Northern sub-region occupies northern slopes of the Kuylyu range on the right bank of the Kuylyu river. The Western part of the subregion can be accessed by road on the left bank of the Kuylyu river. The turn to the left bank is on the sixth kilometer from the Ottuk river inflowing into the Sarydjaz river. The road goes to the Karator gorge, where river condition in summer allows crossing it and reaching the right bank with convenient spots for base camps. On the way two side rivers need to be crossed, which are the Molo river (10 km from the start of road) and the Sarychat river (18 km). In summer time these rivers can be crossed by off-road vehicle only early in the morning. In about 500 meters from the end of the road there is a year-round shepherd camp where one can rent horses and buy fresh dairy products. Good place for base camp are mouths of the rivers Karator or Bardytor. However despite the relative popularity there are still a lot of unclimbed peaks. From base camps to the climbing start in the head of canyons Karator, Bardytor and Ashutor hiking time is 5-7 hours. Only easy accessed peaks with easy routes have been climbed in the region. The eastern part of the northern slopes of Kuylyu range can be accessed by vehicle on the right river bank of the Kuylyu in summer. The road starts at the frontier post located at the right bank of the Kuylyu river where it inflows to the Sarydjaz river. Nowadays it's most popular and accessible part of the Kuylyu range.

The Southern sub-region. The southern slopes of the Kuylyu range are referred as the Southern sub-region. It is the area where the highest summit of the range - peak Konstituzii - is situated. One can easily reach the area by the road Karakol-Sarydjaz and further on the right bank of the Sarydjaz river follow 3 km to where the Terekti river inflows to the Sarydjaz. Right in between the rivers Terekti, Ayutor anf Echkitas peak Konstituzii is situated to which several routes are developed.

Access to the Eastern sub-region is along the river Taldysu from its inflow to the Sarydjaz river which is a bit lower than the village of similar name (Sarydjaz). It’s about 5-6 hours hike from the river mouth to the upper reaches of the Malii and Bolshoi Taldysu. The region is not popular among climbers and therefore wasn’t explored.

The most difficult access is to the Western sub-region. There are two options: A) through the Barskaun to the upper reaches of the Arabel river and futher along rivers Kumtor, Sarychat and on the left bank of the Irtash to Kuykuu Zapadnaya river. Vehicle can go only to the upper reaches of the Sarychat river and from there 2 days walking to where climbing starts. B) on the right bank of the Sarydjaz river to its inflow to the Uchkul river and further on the old road along the left bank of the Uchkul river. The road hasn’t been maintained since the 80-s and there is not much traffic there but some distance can be covered by an off-road vehicle. By foot the same distance will take two days. The main obstacle while driving or walking is crossing the rivers. In the period of June through September, rivers are full-flowing and violent. Just like the eastern sub-region this one is also not explored by climbers. Some summits of the region are higher 5,000m.

Cartography. Nord Kuyluu, maps 1/50,000 k44-62-3 and 4, sud Kuyluu, maps 1/50,000 k44-74-1 and 2. Nord Kuyluu, maps 1/100,000 k44-62, sud Kuyluu, maps 1/100,000 k44-74.


N
I
II
III
IV
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32
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40
41
42

figure 10a. Orographic map of Kuylyu range (northern spurs)

Peaks	Peaks (next)	Peaks (next)	Rivers
1.4612	19.4787	35.4550	I.Kuilu
2.4849	20.5000	36.4610	II.Karator
3.4551	21.5041	37.4738	III.Bordytor
4.4641	22.4862	38.4648	IV.Karasuu
5.4661	23.5020	39.4146	V.Oroisuu
6.4855	24.4838	40.4048	VI.Kindyk
7.4732	25.4568	41.5000	VII.Ekichat
8.4330	26.4205	42.4602	VIII.Terekty
9.4880	27.4801		
10.5210	28.4810		
11.5203	29.4878		
12.4721	30.4700		
13.4375	31.4820		
14.4285	32.4526		
15.4425 - 15^1. 4715	33.4885		
16.4920 - 16^1. 4161	34.Constitution, 5281		
17.4800			
18. 5091			

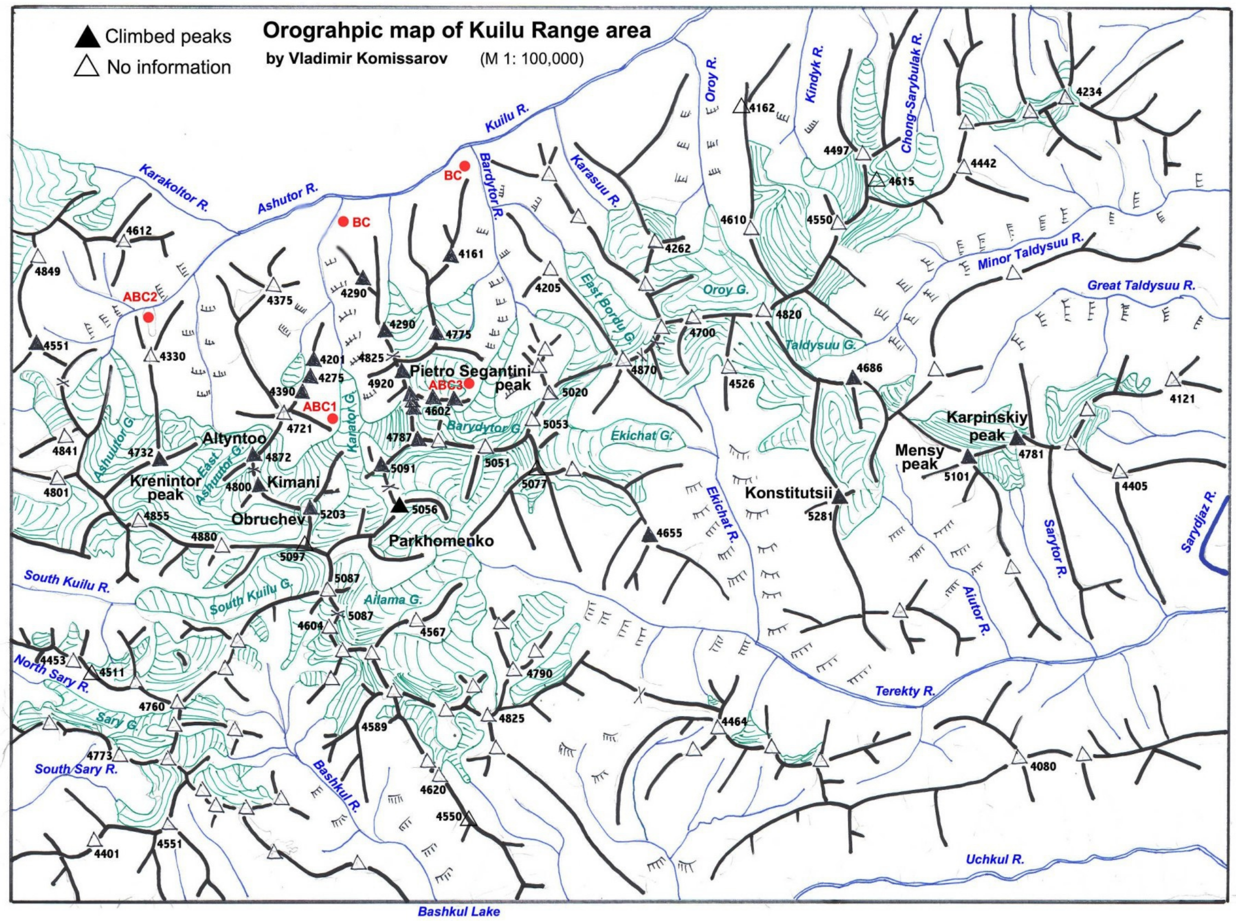
Climbed peaks
No information
Orograhpic map of Kuilu Range area
by Vladimir Komissarov
(M 1: 100,000)
Kuilu R.
Ashutor R.
Karakoltor R.
Bardytor R.
Karasuu R.
Oroy R.
Kindyk R.
Chong-Sarybulak R.
Minor Taldysuu R.
Great Taldysuu R.
BC
BC
ABC1
ABC2
ABC3
4612
4849
4551
4330
4375
4290
4161
4205
4290
4775
4201
4275
4390
4825
4920
Pietro Segantini
peak
4602
4721
5020
5053
4787
Barydytor G.
Karator G.
Altyntoo
4872
Kimani
4800
Krenintor
peak
4732
Ashutor G.
East Ashutor G.
4841
4801
4855
4880
Obruchev
5203
5097
5091
5056
Parkhomenko
5051
5077
Ekichat G.
East Bordu G.
4262
4870
4700
4820
4610
4550
Oroy G.
4526
Taldysuu G.
4686
4162
4497
4615
4442
4234
4121
Karpinskiy
peak
4781
Mensy
peak
5101
4405
Konstitutsii
5281
4655
Ekichat R.
Sarytor R.
Sarydjaz R.
Aiutor R.
South Kuilu R.
South Kuilu G.
5087
5087
Ailama G.
4604
4567
4790
4453
4511
North Sary R.
4760
Sary G.
4773
South Sary R.
4589
4825
4464
Terekty R.
4080
Bashkul R.
4620
4550
4401
4551
Uchkul R.
Bashkul Lake

figure 10b. Orographic Map of Kuylyu range

Kuylu Range List of climbed summits and routes, Kyrgyzstan (see map before)

Summits	**First ascensionnist**	**Grade**	**Year**
4161	*Viktor Saunders*		2000
4201	*Viktor Saunders*		2000
4275	*Viktor Saunders*		2000
4290 (N)	*Vladimir Komissarov*	2A	2000
4290 (S)	*Vladimir Komissarov*	2A	2000
4375	*Pat Littlejohn, Adrian Nelhams*		2009
4390	*Viktor Saunders*		2000
4551	*Pat Littlejohn*		2000
4602			
4655	*Gavrilov B.*		1956
4686	*Gavrilov B.*		1956
4710	*Vladimir Komissarov*	3A	2009
Krenintor, 4732	*Pat Littlejohn*		2000
4775	*Suchorukov Michail*	*1B*	*2006*
Karpinskogo, 4781	*Gavrilov B.*		1956
4787	*?*		?
Humani, 4800	*Viktor Saunders*	AD	2000
Pietro Segantini, 4825	*Vladimir Komissarov, V. N*	2A	2000
Pietro Segantini, 4825	*Vladimir Komissarov, V. NE*	2B	2008
Altyntoo, 4872	*Pat Littlejohn*	AD	2000
Tsarevitch, 4920	*Pat Littlejohn*	PD	2000
Parkhomenko,5056	*Gavrilov B.*		1956
Matershinnitsa,5091	*Pat Littlejohn, Viktor Saunders Crête S*	PD	2000
Mensy, 5101	*Gavrilov B.*		1956
Obrutcheva (Karator), 5203	*Gavrilov B.*		1956
Obrutcheva (Karator), 5203	*Viktor Saunders*	PD	2000
Konstitutsii, 5281	*Tcherepov I.*		1937
Konstitutsii, 5281	*Boshman Verner*	5B	1971
Konstitutsii, 5281	*?*		1977

Right peak is 5053m. Unclimbed peaks of Bardytor canyon of Kuilu Range

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Kuilu Range. 4920m Peak left and Pietro Segantini Peak 4825m both are climbed.

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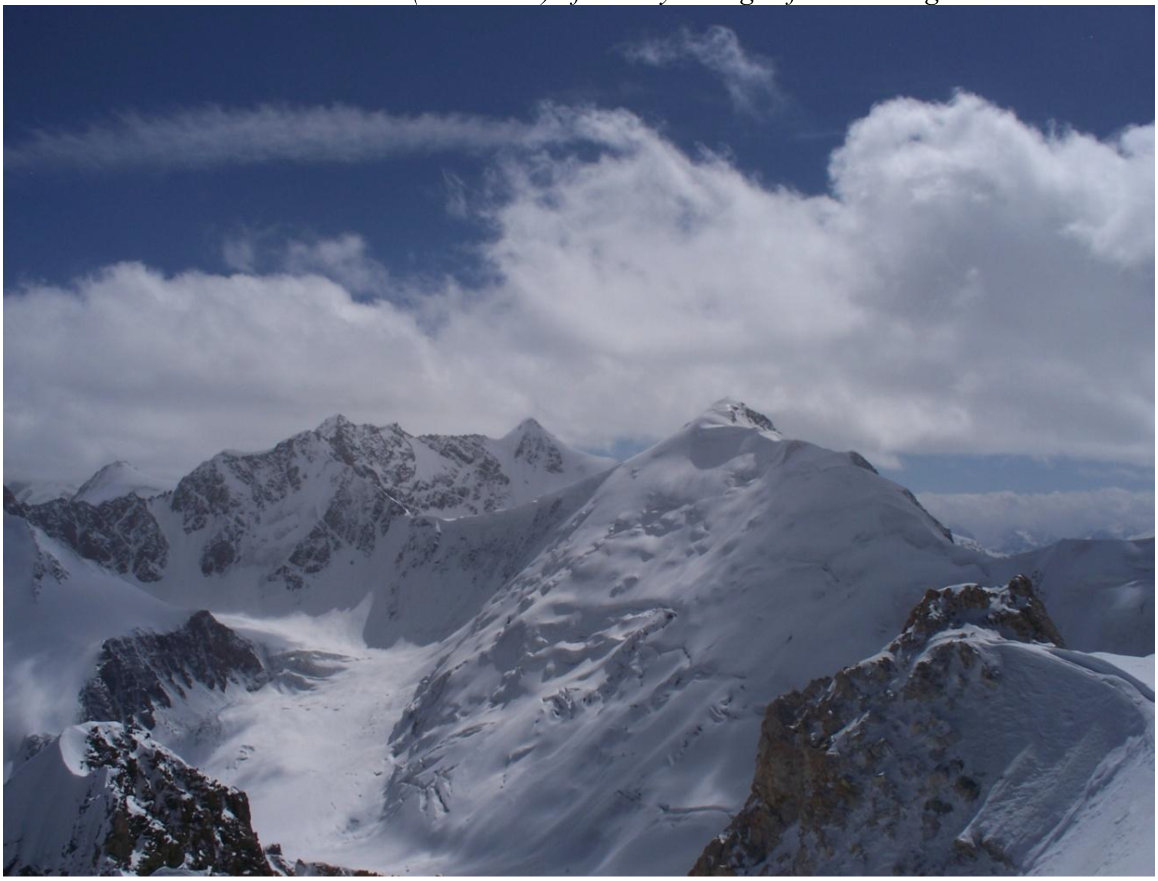
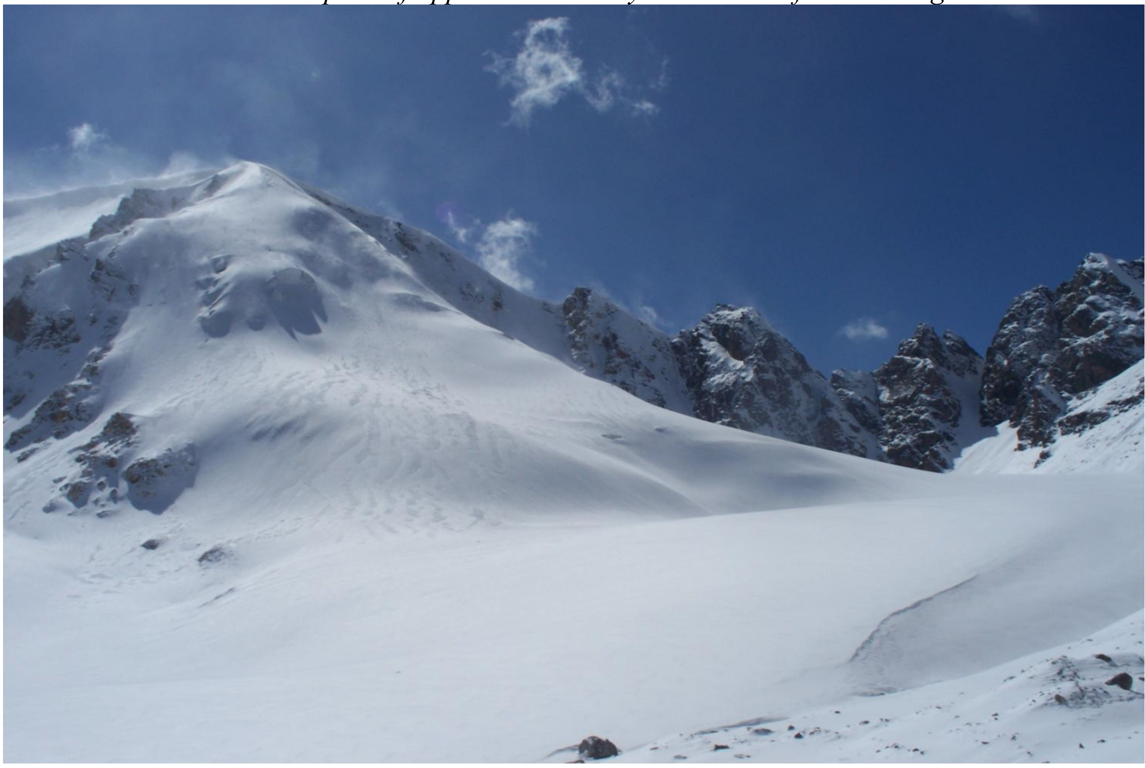
Peaks: right peak is 5051m (unclimbed), left is 5053m (unclimbed) of Bardytor Glacier. Central is 5077m (unclimbed) of Terekty George of Kuilu Range



Unclimbed peak of upper richer Bardytor Glacier of Kuilu Range.



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Base camp near Confluence Rivers Kuilu and Bardytor.

Molo River crossing. Kuilu river basin

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Upper richer of Kuilu River.

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River Crossing September. Upper reaches of Kuylyu river

Bardytor River crossing.

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Base camp Karator Valley, Kuylyu range

Lower reach of Kuilu River.

A.1.6) The Maybash-Too Mountains, Central Tien-Shan

Miscellaneous features

The Maybash-Too mountains bears his name from the Maybash river that takes its source. The ridge is located at the south edge of the Central Tien-Shan and Eastern Sarydjaz river. It is located south of the glacier Kayingdy (Kaindy), and separates from the edge of the chinese bordering Kokshaal-Too, south of the Ayransu pass (4750m). The mountain is here higher than the ridge of Kokshaal-Too that performs here a reduction in its long course first south-west and west beyond the Sarydjaz. The edge of Maybash-Too is characterized by a regular succession of 5000 m peaks to the highest peak at 5361 m. The ridge then comes suddenly stoop to the west by the canyon of the impetuous Sarydjaz river. The relief of this range, as in all the immediate area is extremely steep, with deeply indented valleys where it is not uncommon that the bottom are around 2000-2500, for immediate peak around 4500-5000. This extreme terrain roughness partly explains the difficulty of exploration.

Formerly located entirely in Kyrgyz territory, range now form the current Sino-Kyrgyz border since the 1996 agreements with China. The previous border passes indeed further south on the orographic Kokshaal-Too ridge of the mountain. There the Tien-Shan is literally cut in two pieces by the gorges of Sarydjaz which formed locally, by raising the upstream rivers, the border at the time of the Soviet Union. It is the same with the western borders of Maybash-Too literally plunging into the bubbling waters of Sarydjaz.

Hydrography, glacier, geology

Its hydrographic network comprises firstly the North River Kuyukap (or Koykap), a tributary of Sarydjaz. The latter borders the mountain in the east. Upstream of Kuyukap, is the confluence of two rivers Maybash and Terekty (2200 m). The river Terekty leads to the southern flank of the mountain of Kaindy-Katta and the southwest side of the Kokshaal-Too area. The Ayran-Su river rises in Ayran-Su glacier which borders the slopes of Kokshaal-Too.

The area forms the southern region of the Central Tien-Shan, the nearest area of the Taklamakan desert on the Chinese province. The edge of the nearby Kokshaal-Too mountain separates the basin from that of one of the largest glacier in the Tien-Shan, the glacier Sabavchy (currently called Temirsu), entirely on Chinese side.

Glaciers of Maybash-Too range are relatively short compared to the northern areas of the Central Tien-Shan (Kaindy, Engylchek, Adyrtor, Sarujaz). On the steep mountain terrain is a succession of hanging glaciers along the ridges, mainly exposed North.

The geology of the mountain is similar to that of the Central Tien-Shan, complex, made of sedimentary layers (mainly limestone and red marble) suddenly raised to the highest ridges, interspersed with multiple varieties of shale. Everything "flows" in dizzying and deep gullies. In the lower valleys clastic rocks formed hard conglomerates bordering rivers into short ravines.

History of exploration in the area and opportunity of ascents.

The area was certainly explored for the first time by Gotfried Merzbacher during his expedition of 1902-1903. In his account, G.Merzbacher tells us that the river Koykap means "Sheep Bag" in Kyrgyz. For the headwaters of Koykap river presents a deep valley, shaped bag, and a warm microclimate, suitable for grazing of sheep (and other) including winter times (page 227 of the book Expedition 1902-1903). On the other hand local Kyrgyz describe Koykap valley as very long and provided with abundant water sources that prevent its traverse in summer. G.Merzbacher goes through the Uchat pass and the Kara-Archa Pass.

At this time, there is also an access to this miraculous valley, by the south, through the valley of the River Djanaldjer, and the pass of Maybash. It was a way of better access until the occurence of border change in 1996 and the diposal of the Djanaldjer Valley to China.

It was not until 1959 to see the first Moscow pioneers to explore the Terekty-Koykap Valleys, under the direction of I.Biryukov. In August, they go back with the Kyrgyz horse drivers, lane passes north: rise of the Kaindy river, Uchat pass, Kara-Archa pass and Chichor pass. They penetrate the Koykap valley, following footsteps of Merzbacher, goes further than this well-known predecessor, including exploring the Buluntor Valley.

A few years later, no date known precisely, another expedition back to the Terekty Valley to its source, the Kuyukap glacier, discovering the passage of Moschny and Zheleznodorozhnik passes. Material evidence of this expedition was definitely lost.

It was not until 1999 that a new expedition has been organized to the area by a group of Moscow climbers led by Sergey Kryukov, who not seems to have used local trails, probably preferring helicopter transfer. The last known visit is on year 2010. The expedition is Ukrainian, by the Kiev tourism club led by Oleg Yanchevskiy in August. The expedition takes access to the area by local trails: from Mayda-Adyr, they cross alternately, the pass At-Djailoo (allows to connect the valleys Engylchek and Kaindy) The pass Bulantor (apparently allows quick passage between the Kaindy and Bulantor Valleys and avoiding the passes Chichor and Uchat), to finally reach the downstream valley of Koykap river. Then it goes up the valley towards the confluence of the Ayran-Su to join its sources and explore glaciated areas around the upstream Ayran-Su Pass on Kokshaal-Too.

In attempting to analyze these various historical sources, we would be strongly tempted to observe that the ***range Maybash-Too was never really explored***, and the headwaters of the river Maybash remained unrecognized for too long. To date in 2015, the upper ridge of Maybash-Too is perhaps the only one to more than 5000 m to remain a virgin crest of no human activities in Kyrgyzstan.

A burning geopolitical news

The Lower Sarydjaz is more easily reached from China since Kyrgyzstan. For a long time it is also a hunting ground for large game (ibex, Marco Polo sheep, wild yaks). In January 2014 a serious border incident in this part of lower Sarydjaz implies a gamekeeper who met a group of 11 Uighurs came from China. The latter saw the group up the valley over 40km inland, warned the Kyrgyz border guards. Later the gamekeeper is found dead and weapons stolen by the Uighur group. The border patrol quickly intercepted this group. Following a committed fight all 11 Uighurs were killed. According to Kyrgyz border guards testimony the group presented the appearance of an Islamist group (source eurasia.net).

Other media, the Huffington Post, realized in 2015 an article on Islam radicalism in Kyrgyzstan, referring in passing the possibility for some Uighurs jihadi groups, to use the territory of Kyrgyzstan as a nearby base. We can therefore only recommending vigilance in these areas of easier access from the Xinjang province (formerly East Turkestan, China). The latter province is the scene of a separatist conflict with the Chinese authorities for a long time. Besides the troubles are historically usual in East Turkestan!

Let us hope that the presence of Kyrgyz border guards should be strengthened in the region. Strict controls are already there and the Kyrgyz government might have taken the measure of the danger, in order to ensure the safety of traveling in groups in the area.

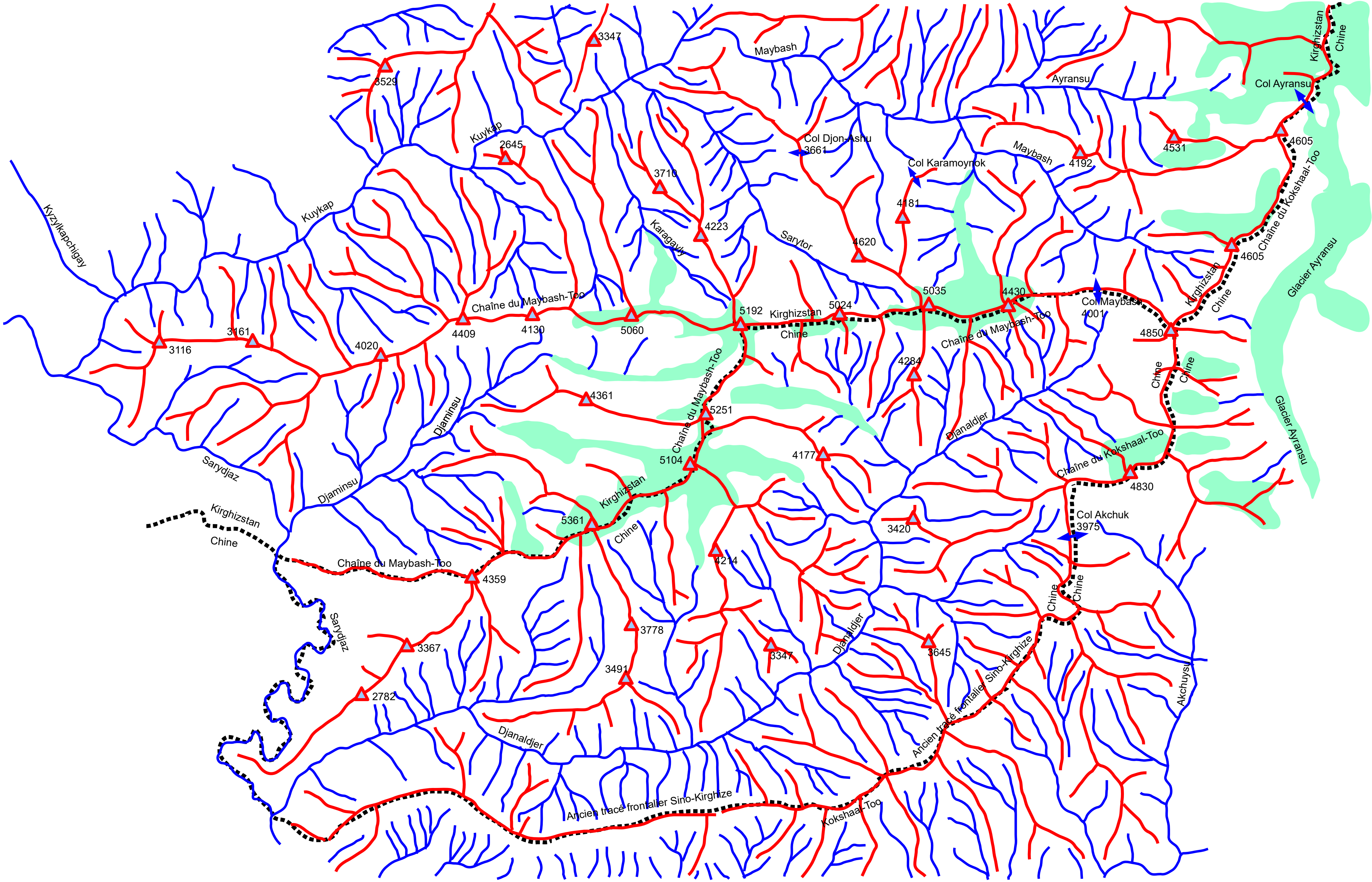
Access to the range

As was done in previous expeditions in the area, the pedestrian access is relatively long and tedious from the north. From the last road positions, one must crosses on the edge of lower Sarydjaz several passes and several valleys: the rise of Kaindy River, the Uchat pass overlooking the eponymous valley and then climb to the passes of Kara-Archa and Chicho,r then downhill in the small valley Kyzylkapchigaï, a tributary of Kuykap, ascent the Kuykap valley to the confluence of the Ayransu and Maybash. A journey of a hundred kilometers with all logistical problems that can result. Is there exist yet pastoral migrations as in Merzbacher time, allowing horse transportation ?

The other alternative is still the helicopter from the campground Maida-Adyr, allowing the installation of a base camp on the middle reaches of the river Maybash around 3000 m.

This region is located in the border area and a special access permit is required there. The main border checkpoint is located further north at the confluence of rivers Sarydjaz and Engylchek. The area is subject to increased control by frequent border patrols.

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k44-076; 1/200 000th: k44-20


3347
Maybash
3529
Ayransu
Kirghizstan
Chine
Col Ayransu
Kuykap
2645
Col Djon-Ashu
3661
4531
4605
Maybash
4192
Col Karamoynok
3710
4181
Kyzylkapchigay
Kuykap
4223
Karagayly
Sarytor
4620
Chaîne du Kokshaal-Too
4605
Glacier Ayransu
5035
4430
Chaîne du Maybash-Too
5192
Kirghizstan
5024
Col Maybash
4001
Kirghizstan
Chine
4409
4130
5060
Chine
Chaîne du Maybash-Too
4850
3116
3161
4020
4284
Chine
Chine
Chaîne du Maybash-Too
4361
Djaminsu
5251
Djanaldjer
Glacier Ayransu
Sarydjaz
Chaîne du Maybash-Too
4177
5104
Chaîne du Kokshaal-Too
Djaminsu
Kirghizstan
4830
Kirghizstan
5361
Col Akchuk
3975
Chine
3420
Chine
4214
Chaîne du Maybash-Too
4359
Chine
Chine
Sarydjaz
3778
3367
Djanaldjer
3347
3645
3491
Sino-Kirghize
Akchuysu
2782
Ancien tracé frontalier
Djanaldjer
Ancien tracé frontalier Sino-Kirghize
Kokshaal-Too

Orographic Scheme of Maybash-Too range

A.1.7) The Ushat-Too range, Central Tien-Shan

Miscellaneous features

Special geographical point in the Tien-Shan Central, the top of the 5142 meters Peak Ushat, forms an impregnable bastion overlooking the rushing waters of the surrounding rivers, flowing into valleys over 2,500 meters below. The Ushat range is easily localizable in the central Tien Shan, south of the valleys Engylchek and Kaindy, southwest of Kuylu, it is inside a long loop on the Lower Sarydjaz. On maps it has a little glacier complex to over 5000 m. The Ushat ridge or (Uch-Shat) opens to the West in the form of Iron Horse sheltering in his circus relatively imposing glacial system. This small range also includes another peak of 5140 m nearby in the south.

Hydrography of the range

The range is bordered to the north by the Kaindy river from the great eponymous glacier, west and south by the Sarydjaz into a vast looping movement through narrow, winding gorges that deeply split in half the Tien-Shan on almost their highest heights. The Ushat in the East is itself a tributary of Sarydjaz. The Taldybulak river comes from the glacial heart of the pyramidal ridge, flowing westward their water also onto the gigantic Sarydjaz river.

History of exploration in the area

The area was certainly explored for the first time by Gotfried Merzbacher during his expedition of 1902-1903. In his account, G.Merzbacher indicates that in Kyrgyz language, the region owes its name to the presence of "Three Valleys," the Kaindy north, the Ushat east and west the Sarydjaz. The area is known like breeders passageway through the passes of the Ushat and Kara-Archa to the green valleys of Kuykap southeast, and winter grazing areas.

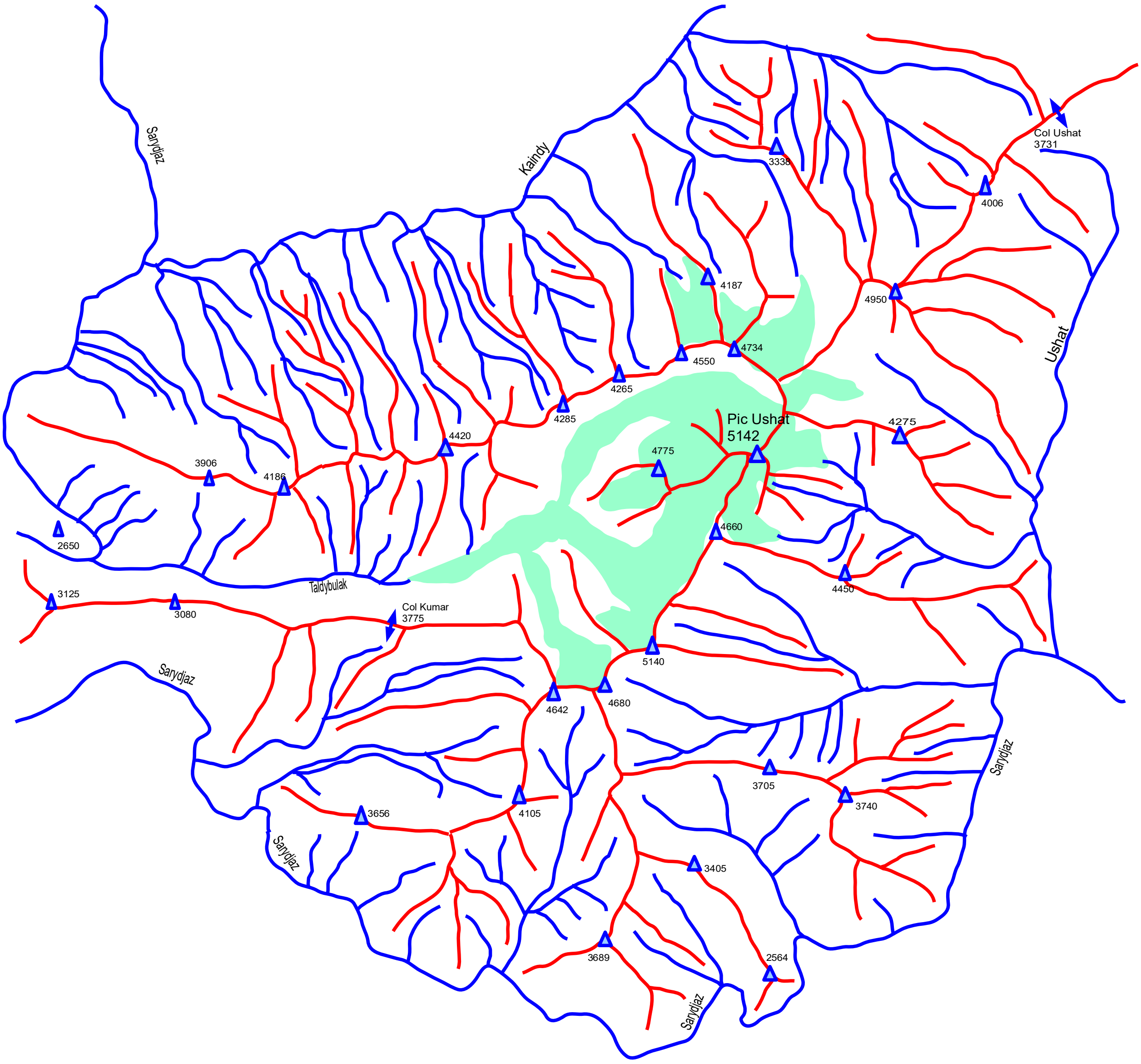
Besides exploring Merzbacher, no narrative seems to describe the ascent of this completely isolated peak around high mountains of the central Tien-Shan. Without state that it has never been climbed, the singular elevation of the range, the presence of vertiginous northern glacial slopes, the high altitude can all transform this pyramid mountain to a pretty ground of technical play, in a wild loneliness atmosphere.

Access to the area

The main track leading to central Tien-Shan at confluence of Engylchek and at the campground of Maida-Adyr, allows to approach the ridge almost 20 km. At the ghost mining town of Engylchek from the confluence of Sarydjaz and Engylchek, a road trail follows the Lower Sarydjaz, which borrows up to the confluence of Kaindy. From here a path can reach the Taldybulak valley that penetrates the heart of the mountainous circus in the west. It should inquire about the viability of the tracks and the conditions of access to the mountain trails. The rise of Kaindy valley and the ascent of the Ushat pass (3731) can reach the valley of the Ushat River, as well as the eastern and southern flanks of the range where other high peaks over 4000 m may be accessible.

This region is located in the border area and a special access permit is required there. The main border checkpoint is located further north at the confluence of rivers Sarydjaz and Engylchek. The area is subject to a control reinforced by frequent border patrols.

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k44-075; 1/200 000th: k44-20


Sarydjaz
Kaindy
Col Ushat
3731
3338
4006
4187
4950
4734
4550
4265
4285
Ushat
Pic Ushat
5142
4275
4420
3906
4186
4775
4660
2650
Taldybulak
4450
3125
3080
Col Kumar
3775
5140
Sarydjaz
4642
4680
Sarydjaz
3705
3740
3656
4105
Sarydjaz
3405
3689
2564
Sarydjaz

Orographic scheme of Ushat-Too range

A.1.8) The At-Djailoo Range

It is a small mountain range of Central Tien-Shan, all in length and very narrow, culminating at 4477 m. It borders the left bank of the river Engylchek on thirty kilometers. The first exploration of the mountain has been made by the famous explorer Gotfried Merzbacher in 1902, who climbed with his horse at the At-Djailoo pass and back down the valley in order to join the Kaindy Valley and its glacier back to the middle of its course.

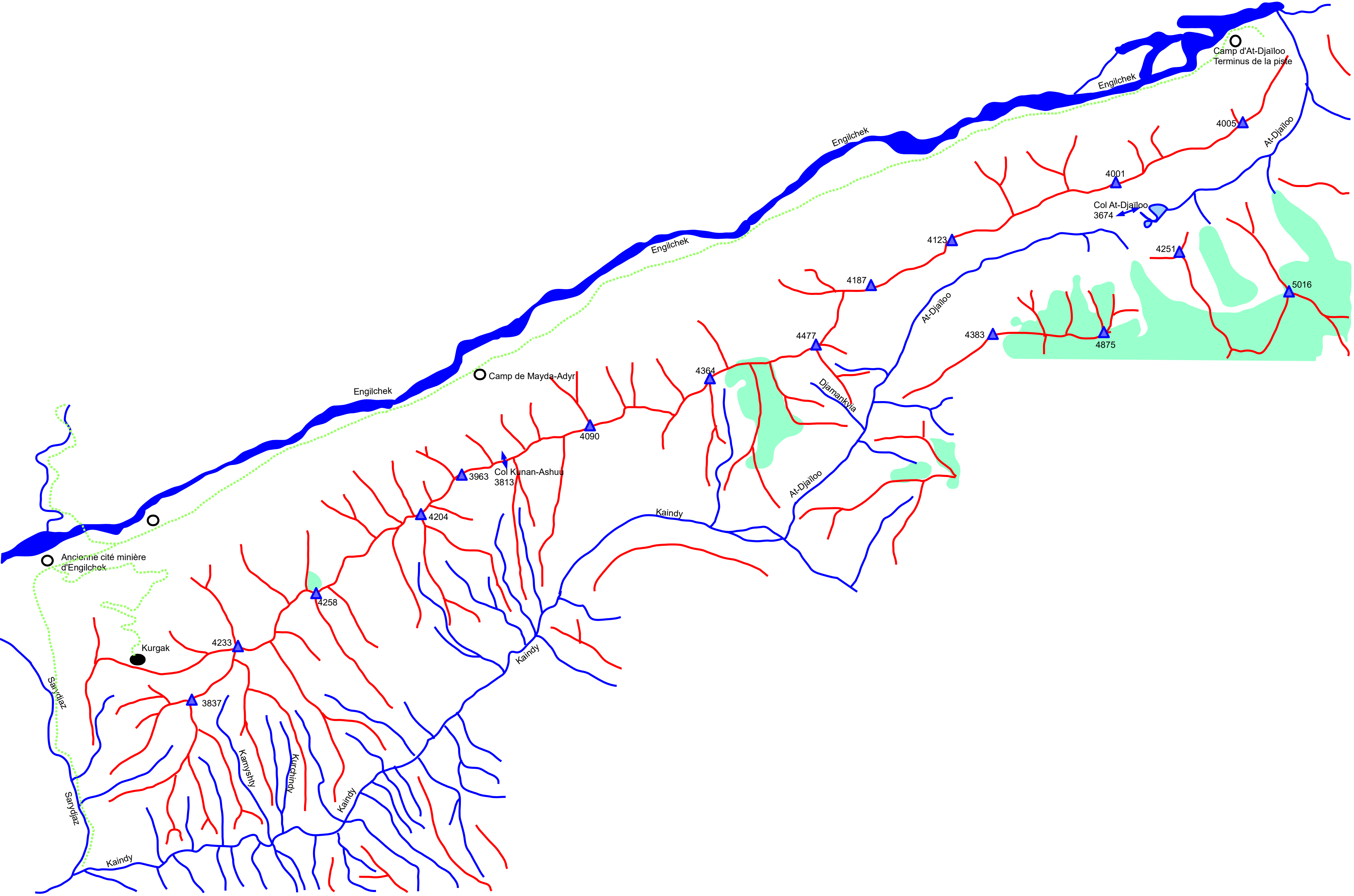
This is probably the most easily accessible mountain of all that of the central Tien-Shan, since it is at the foot of the Maida-Adyr transit camp, starting point for climbs in the Engylchek basin. The two main entrances are located to the east and west, both reachable by 4x4 road tracks. Access to the west is located at the entrance of the Engylchek Valley, in a landscape quite devastated, an old mining industrial wasteland, in a semi-desert environment as drought soil. All contributes to the ghostly atmosphere of the abandoned city of Engylchek. There a dust road climbs the slopes high up in the mountain almost to 3000 m on the mining site of Kurgac starting from an altitude of 2500m. A trail then continues up to about 3700 m. It seems that to find water on the eastern side is not an easy task, and the site should not be either free of old industrial pollution. A mountain river seems to flow at Kurgac.

Access from the east is a much more pleasant place, also among the least rigorous areas of the Central Tien-Shan. One have to follow the 20 km terminus 4x4 track along the Engylchek river from Maida Adyr to At-Djailoo site camp. From there one reach the edge of the River At-Djailoo coming from the huge Khan-Djailoo glacier. Then clearly one perceives a good trail that goes up on the heights of the left bank of the river towards the pass At-Djailoo. Some obstacles present themselves on the course, including the crossing of the At-Djailoo River above the confluence with the Khan-Djailoo River (the main river flow is indeed considerably lower, the Khan-Djailoo river is the main contributor by the glacier of the same name, sliding from the Southwest slopes of Peak Nansen 5697 m) by temporary bridges (wood trunks assembled). A small ascension day enables a very good base camp at 3674 m at the pass.

The exploration of the mountain can begin, in an absolutely magnificent setting surrounded by the West borders of the mountain of Engylchek-Too, an imposing glacial complex, and all that, the feet in the grass, a rare commodity in the Central Tien-Shan !

Besides probably virgin ascents, according to "Dima", the responsible of the South Engylchek base camp, one can easily combine this exploration with an expedition to the glacial complex of Peak At-Djailoo (5016 m) on Western Engylchek-Too. Very near, the first kilometers of north slopes of Peak Nansen, there are formidable granite walls 500 meters high and certainly much more, ever to be climbed, wilderness guarantee.

Like all areas of the region, a permit access to the border areas is necessary.


Camp d'At-Djaïloo
Terminus de la piste
Engilchek
Engilchek
4005
At-Djaïloo
4001
Col At-Djaïloo
3674
4123
4251
4187
5016
At-Djaïloo
4477
4383
4875
Engilchek
4364
Camp de Mayda-Adyr
Djamankyia
Engilchek
4090
Col Kunan-Ashuu
3813
3963
At-Djaïloo
Kaindy
4204
Ancienne cité minière
d'Engilchek
4258
Kurgak
4233
Kaindy
Sarydjaz
3837
Kamyshty
Kurchindy
Kaindy
Sarydjaz
Kaindy

graphic Scheme of At-Djailoo Range

A.1.9) The Ishigart range, Tien-Shan Central

Main characteristics

The Ishigart range is somehow a continuation of the Akshyyrak range eastward which it is separated by Ishigart pass at altitude 3963 m. It is also located west of Sarydjaz River, south of Terekti and circumscribes by the Uchkul rivers (North) and Akshyyrak (south). He has more than 30 peaks above 4000 and a very little icefield complex. But the lack of information about this small and quite remote range can also result in some possible inaccuracies on topographic maps, espcecially on location of potential glaciers.

The eastern part is lower altitude and has a much rougher terrain with steep slopes falling into the three gorges of the rivers Sarydjaz (East), Akshyyrak (South, area of Djangart river mouth) and Uch-Kül (North).

In terms of mountaineering and hiking, there's not much if any information on these mountains. It is a terra incognita and should also be considered timely to explore even that as a basis for preliminary ascents before addressing the more technical and higher elevations goals as for instance Kuylyu or Akshyyrak ranges.

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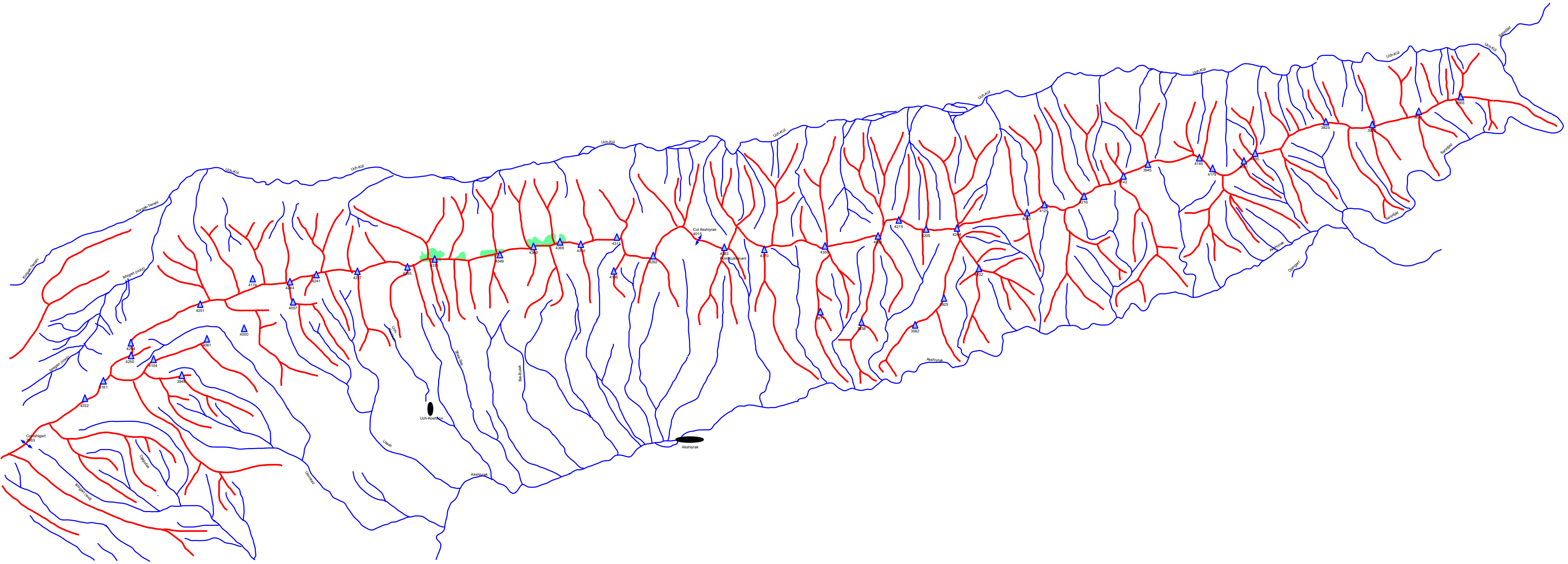
Access to area

The East and Central ridge of Ishigart is accessible from the road to Karakol-Chon-Ashu pass-Ottuk and Sarydjaz valleys. After the Chon-Ashu pass, following the Ottuk river, one reach the Sarydjaz river. One also go further the confluence with the Engylchek river to join the flows of Uch-Kul river. However, one should check for tracks (4WD) from the confluence with the Sarydjaz river back to the upstream of Uch-Kul River as far as possible.

This region is located in the border area and a special access permit is required there. Military chekpoint is at the confluence of rivers Engylchek and Sarydjaz.

Cartography.1:50 000th: K44-074-1 and 2 K44-075-1 (East); 1/100 000th: K44-074, K44-075 (East); 1/200 000th: K44-19


Uch-Kül
Kurgak-Tenshi
Ishigart (nord)
Ishigart (sud)
Col Ishigart
3963
Djagotak
Usunsaz
Utash
Uch-Koshkon
Shek-Say
Bel-Bulak
Akshiyrak
Col Akshiyrak
4015
Point culminant
Sarydjaz
Djangart
4252
4161
4250
4204
4104
3949
4061
4251
4000
4174
4244
4057
4241
4227
4295
4311
4349
4369
4366
4310
4311
4136
4292
4383
4370
4350
3811
3838
4215
4205
4244
4402
3925
3562
4060
4125
4216
4142
3945
4145
4179
3825
3565

Orographic Scheme of Ishigart Range

A.1.10) The Terekti range, Tien-Shan Central

Main characteristics

The Terekti range is located West of Sarydjaz River, south of Kuylyu between rivers Terekti on North and Uchkul on South (not to be confused with the Terekti river, left tributary of Sarydjaz between the ranges of Kaindy-Katta and Maybash-Too). It is often confused and could be considered as part of the Kuylyu range which it is separated in the area of Aylamna glacier (see orographic map). The ridge includes more than 100 peaks above 4000, culminating at 4930 m (4917 pointed on the 50 000th topographic map).

Thus the western part of Terekti range can be presented as the southern extension of the Kuylyu range. Since it's the highest part it has significant icefield complex. It is in this part that it culminates at 4930 (sometimes 4917, no known name). The eastern part is of lower elevation. Beyond Terekti Pass (3672 m) the ridge is much drier, and its shape is similar with the Ishigart range which borders the south. Similarly the eastern part has rougher terrain falling into the gorges of the three rivers Sarydjaz (East), Terekti (North) and Uch-Kül (South).

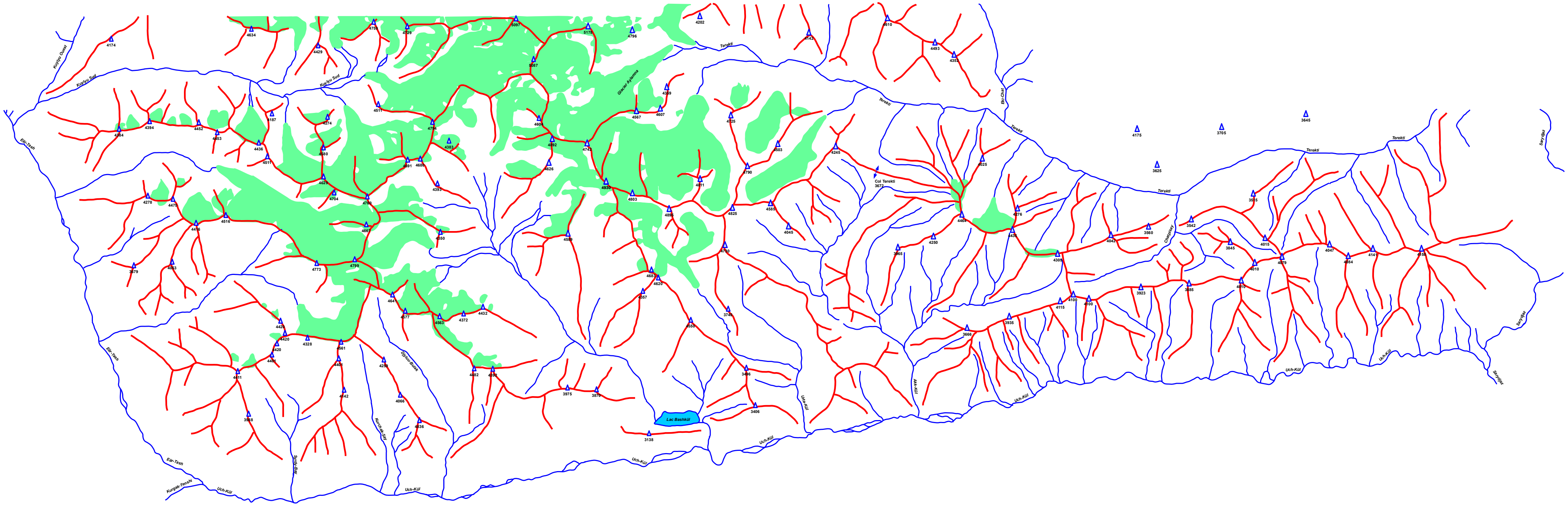
In terms of mountaineering and hiking trails, nor for the Ishigart range, there's not much information. The area should also be considered as timely to explore, and it would be rather a basis for preliminary climbs before tackling more technical and more ambitious goals. Who knows if this can not reveal some beads!

Access to area

The Terekti range is also easily accessible as the southern part of the Kuylyu range. One can easily reach by road of Karakol-Chon-Ashu pass-Ottuk-Sarydjaz. After the Chon-Ashu pass, following the Ottuk river, you reach the Sarydjaz river. One also go further the confluence with the Engylchek river to join the flows of Terekti river from the right bank of Sarydjaz. There then one follows for a few km from its mouth the upstream of the Terekti river (4WD). Here lies the various base camp for Southeast Kuylyu between Terekti and Ayutor rivers, but also those of small Terekti range from which starts the main routes of ascent. To address the south of the Terekti ridge, one should check for tracks (4WD) on the Uch-Kul river from the confluence with the Sarydjaz river.

This region is located in the border area and a special access permit is required there. Military chekpoint is at the confluence of rivers Engylchek and Sarydjaz.

Cartography.1:50 000th: K44-074-1 and 2 K44-075-1 (East); 1/100 000th: K44-074, K44-075 (East); 1/200 000th: K44-19


4174
4634
4759
4729
5097
5178
4796
4202
4142
4610
4493
4352
Kuylyu Ouest
Kuylyu Sud
4429
5087
Terekti
Kuylyu Sud
Glacier Aylamna
4359
4511
4567
4607
4725
Eki-Chat
Terekti
Terekti
4175
3705
3645
4187
4274
4794
4604
4384
4394
4452
4453
4436
4383
4892
4742
4503
4245
4025
4580
4511
4691
4680
4626
4790
Col Terekti
3672
3625
Terekti
Terekti
Sarydjaz
Eer-Tash
4629
4393
4930
4811
Terekti
3515
4278
4475
4704
4760
4803
4895
4825
4585
4464
4276
3542
4416
4516
4667
4350
4589
4045
4435
3560
4015
4730
3965
4250
4042
Chatpisay
3845
4047
3679
4053
4773
4799
4305
4010
4079
4084
4141
4158
4683
4620
4641
4357
4577
4563
4372
4432
3745
4115
4100
4100
3923
3885
4010
4420
4550
3935
4420
4328
4561
3666
4420
4401
4259
Djyluu-Bulak
Eer-Tash
4411
4401
4482
4392
3496
Akk-Kül
Uch-Kül
Uch-Kül
Sarydjaz
3975
3870
Urta-Kül
4142
4066
Uch-Kül
3988
4336
3406
Kurchak-Say
Lac Bashkül
3138
Uch-Kül
Syrdy-Bay
Uch-Kül
Eer-Tash
Kurgak-Tenshi
Uch-Kül
Uch-Kül

Orographic Scheme of Terekti Range

A.2. Terskey Ala-Too Range

It is one of the most extensive mountainous ranges of the Tien-Shan system. It stretches along the southern shore of lake Issyk-Kul for almost 400 km in latitudinal strike from its western edge to the border of Kazakhstan in east. Canyons Karakol, Jetyoguz and Chon-Kyzylsuu are very popular among climbers. Other canyons are whether rarely visited by mountaineers or not visited at all. There is reasonable access by road to almost all canyons of the northern part of the range and many of the southern slopes. The highway goes along northern slopes. The territory of the range is not in the border area and no special permits are required.

A.2.1) Karakol and Jety-Oguz canyons (figure 3)

Characteristic features. Some of the most popular canyons among climbers are Karakol and Jety-Oguz. The highest peaks, the most interesting itineraries and the highest walls of the Terskey Ala-Too range are located here. The highest peaks are Jigit (5,170m), Karakolskiy (5,256m) and Oguz-Bashi (5,120m). More than 150 routes have been developed here varying from the easiest to the very difficult ones. Mostly routes are rocky or combined, however ice-snow or snow routes are not frequently found. Elevation is 1,500 m. In the upper reaches of canyons routes are mostly combined and in the middle area are mostly rocky.

Location. The Karakol canyon is administrated by Aksuiskiy raion and Jety-Oguz canyon by Jetyoguzskiy raion of Issik-Kul oblast. Both canyons are located to the south of eastern edge of lake Issik-Kul on the northern slopes of Terskey Ala-Too range.

Climate. The climate of the region is considerably milder then of the Central Tien-Shan much depending on true altitudes and proximity to lake Issik-Kul. Annual precipitation is quite heavy - up to 2000 millimeters. It mostly falls in the beginning of summer, however snow and thunder storms are common for July and August as well. The weather is more settled in September but autumn is much colder in mountains than summer. The best time for climbing is July – September.

Climbing history. The records of first ascents date back to 1927 and were done by the group under Grechishkin, who was a dentist from Karakol town. After war the region became popular among climbers from all over the Soviet Union because of the easy access and many different opportunities for expeditions. Lots of different routes were developed during championships of various kinds. Well-known mountaineering camp Ala-Too was in operation here in 1970s-80s. Nowadays, due to the easy access and variety of routes of different grades many climbing teams from Russia come here for training, their rating and skill improvement.

Access. There is convenient access by road from Karakol town. The distance from the town to the end of the road in the Jety-Oguz canyon is 80 km. To get to starting point for climbing one should drive along the road along the southern shore of the lake then take turn to the mountains in Pokrovka village, which goes up to the Tilety Zapadnaya river (western) – right tributary of the Jetyoguz river. Horses or porters can be used to transport loads from the end of the road to base camps. Porters can be hired in Karakol and horses can be rented in the gorge from local people.

The distance from Karakl town to the end of road in Karakol gorge at the river Telety Vostochnyi (eastern) is 18 km. From the end of road to the base grounds for climbing it's from 1-2 up to 5-8 hours walking. Horses or porters can be hired.

Logistics. Territory of the Karakol canyon belongs to national park and an admission fee is in force. Road conditions are very bad and off-road vehicles are advised. There is no admission fee to the Jety-Oguz canyon.

*Cartography***.** Maps 1/50,000 k44-061-3 and 1/100,000 k44-61.

A.2.2) Turgen, Aksu and Altyn-Arashan Canyons (figure 4).

The canyons are located on the northern slopes of the Terskey Ala-Too range, east of the Karakol canyon and administrated by Aksuiskiy raion of Issik-Kul oblast. As typical for northern part of range the routes here are combined with variation of rocky ones and ice-snow. Elevation reaches 1,100 m, however the highest wall is 600 meters. This apparently might have been a reason for lack of interest among climbers during pre-perestroika period. The hardest summit is Tashtanbektorbashi Peak situated in the upper reaches of the Tergen canyon. There is grade 5B route (according to the Russian Classification system). Many summits are still unclimbed. There are roads in the upper reaches of the canyon. There is 12 km road from the main highway to the hot spring resort in the Altyn-Arashan gorge. But only off-road vehicle can drive on this road. It's about 5-7 hours hike from the resort to the upper reach of canyon. In the Aksu gorge 8 km of road are good for driving and then it's another 4-6 hours hike to the campsite. In the Turgen gorge fairly good road goes up to the Sarydjaz. First to Kok-Kiya point where it turns east to Ashu-Tor pass and 4 more km by gravel road. After the road ends it's about 3-4 km hike to Tashtanbektorbashi Peak.

*Cartography***.** Maps 1/50,000 k44-062-2 and 1/100,000 k44-050, k44-062.

A.2.3) Juuku Canyon

The canyon is located between the Barskaun and Kichi-Kyzylsuu canyons and administrated by Tonskiy raion of Issik-Kul oblast. A good gravel road makes easy access to the upper reaches of the gorge. It takes about 1-3 hours hike from possible base camps up to climbing start points. There are more than 40 unclimbed summits above 4,000 m high with number of possible routes of various difficulty grades (from the easiest to the most difficult ones). The routes are mostly rocky and combined, and rarely ice-snow. There is grade 5B route (according to the Russian Classification system) on the northern ridge up to Ittish peak, the highest point of the region.

*Cartography***. *Maps*** 1/100,000 k43-072.

A.2.4) The Uchemchek range, Southwest Terskey Ala-Too and the Sarytor mountains

Various characteristics of the Uchemchek range

In the Barskaun pass area, the Terskey Ala-Too is slightly curved to the south at the pass of Keregetash (3684), to join the range of Uchemche4k from the Southwest to the immediate West vicinity of Barskaun pass. The junction of two ridges is North at the 4475 Peak (west of Pic Chimchik 4467). The highest point of the Uchemchek is located at the 4490 Peak Eguiztor relatively close to the junction with the Terskey Ala-Too. This is also the highest point in North of Eguiztor pass. The Uchemchek develops on an east-west line between the valleys of the Uchemchek north and Burkhan south. It is bordered on the west by Keriu-Karagoman, north and east by the Terskey Ala-Too, on the south by Djetimbel range. Due to its geographical location south of Terskey Ala-Too, it shares much in common with the Djetimbel ridge, including climate, glacial conformation and its average altitude.

Like the Djetimbel it is fairly accessed by the large depressions bordering the North and the South, following the southern valleys with a flat bottom and shaped trough. These side valleys are often equipped with wide low slope glaciers ending on steeper slopes or rocky ridge of the main crest. The average height difference is about 1000 meters. Parts of this range are presented wide high flatlands over 4000 meters, probably abraded by ancient glacial cap still present on the ridge. It is an ideal place to practice high altitude trekking, the possibilities seem endless in all the southern spurs of Terskey Ala-Too.

The range is little known, however, receiving only a few hiking club visits as Russian or Kazakh mountaineering tourists. Only the highest area of Peak and Pass Eguiztor was recognized in the 2000s, so many peaks over 4000 are still virgins of any human tribulation.

Various characteristics of Sarytor mountains

Sarytor mountains are also located at the intersection of Keregetash pass where Terskey Ala-Too curved in the same area. It rises from Terskey Ala-Too at more precisely the Tostor pass (3893) and continues its course to the East in the same initial axis of Terskey Ala-Too. It ends in the Barskaun valley north of pass Sarymoynok (3126). The culminating peak is located at 4486 m altitude in the North of Djangykorgon pass (3745).

The small Sarytor range is located on the North Slope of Terskey Ala-Too, overlooking the shores of Lake Issyk-Kul. One finds the same climate of the north side of Terskey Ala-Too, wetter. The most easterly part of this range present steep slopes rushing in Barskaun River Valley. More to the west of the Tamga Valley, rising from the banks of Lake Issy-Kul, the slope is more gradual, through a typical Kyrgyz and pastoral landscape: forests of the Tien Shan spruce, and extensive livestock jailoo.

Glaciers are quite short and most of them starts in rocky slopes from the main ridge, in addition to a rough alpine terrain. One does not really know main possibilities of alpine ascent, but the further east of the crest is mainly rocky and thus must have a certain interest, not least by the large concentration of peaks of more than 4,400 on the same rocky ridge. The Sarytor mountains are often visited because of its close proximity to the south shore of Lake Issyk-Kul.

Access to the mountains

The main access of the two ranges is from the road of Sarymoynok Barskaun and passes. From Bishkek, one take the road of Ribache, Kochkor and the southern shore of Issyk-Kul Lake up to the Tamga village. At Tamga trails depart to the north towards the mountains of Sarytor. To reach the Uchemchek range and the Sarytor south side, one continue the road by the small town of Barskaun, going up the narrow gorge of Barskaun river towards the two road of the Sarymoynok and Barskaun passes. From there it is easy to trace the broad valleys towards the Uchemchek or Sarytor range to establish base camps in one or two days hike journey.

In most places located in the area of Terskey Ala-Too, there is no restriction of access to mountainous areas.

Cartography. Uchemchek: 1/100 000th: k43-83, k43-84 (eastern part); 1/200 000th: k43-24, Sarytor: 1/100 000th: k43-71, k43-72 (North slope) k43-83, k43-84 (South slope) ; 1/200 000th : k43-24 (south slope), k43-18 (north slope and Lake Issyk-Kul)

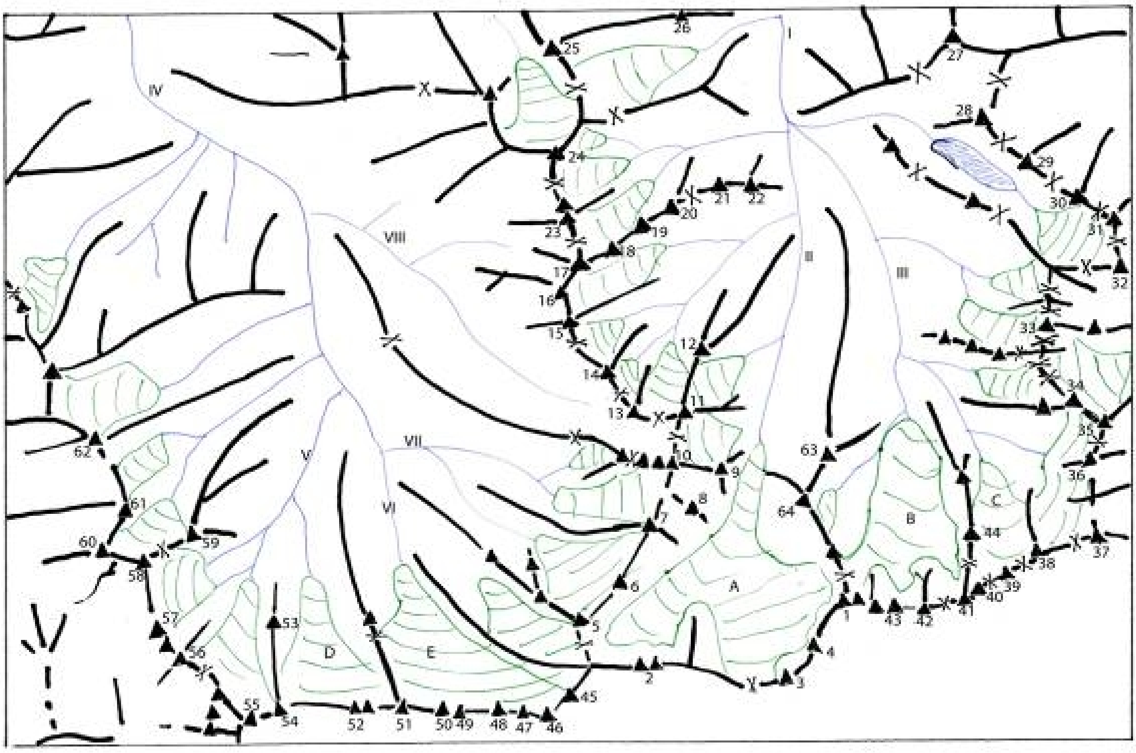

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figure 3. Orographic map of canyons Jety-Oguz and Karakol,Terskey Ala-Too range

Peaks	**Peaks (next)**	**Peaks (next)**	**Rivers**	**Glaciers**.
1.Djigit, 5170	23.Aiuytor, 4320	46.Oguz-Bashi E 1st, 4852	I. Karakol	A.Ontor
2.Karakolskiy, 5286	24.3913	47.Oguz-Bashi E 2nd, 4780	II. Ontor	B.Djigit
3.Slonionok - *small elephant, 4726	25.4142	48.Oguz-Bashi E 3rd, 4950	III. Keltor	C.Keltor
	26.Issykkulskie Peria, 4275	49.Oguz-Bashi, 5168	IV. Djetyoguz	D.Baytor
4.Festivalnaia, 4500	27.Przhevalskogo, 4159	50.Oguz-Bashi O, 5110	V. Baytor	E.Aylanysh
5.4431	28.4221	51.Batrises, Oguz-Bashi O 1st, 4960	VI. Aylanysh	
6.4474	29.3919,4		VII. Archator	
7.4415	30.4010	52.Oguz-Bashi O 2nd, 5000	VIII. Telety	
8. 4386	31.4142	53.Golet Revolutsii, 4600		
9.Telmana, 4143	32.4116	54.Oguz-Bashi O, 5110		
10.4345	33.4213	55.Neila Armstronga, 4909		
11.4202	34.4319	56.4350		
12.4093	35.50-Letiya Trudy 4340	57.4221		
13.3900	36.4523	58.Chernyi Klyk, 4072		
14.Dimitrova, 4072	37.4493	60.3743		
15.4210	38.4408	61.3600		
16.Telety, 4194	39.MGMI, 4365	62.3628		
17.Gastello, 4382	40.Brigantina, 4612	63.4130		
18.GTO, 4298	41.Albatross,4740- 4721	64.4310		
19.Gheroev Krasnodontsev, 4171	42.4587			
	43.4859			
20.Studentov (student), 4202	44.4035			
21.Mendeleevets, 4172	45.Cheliabinets, 4852			
22.Uzlovaia, 3982				

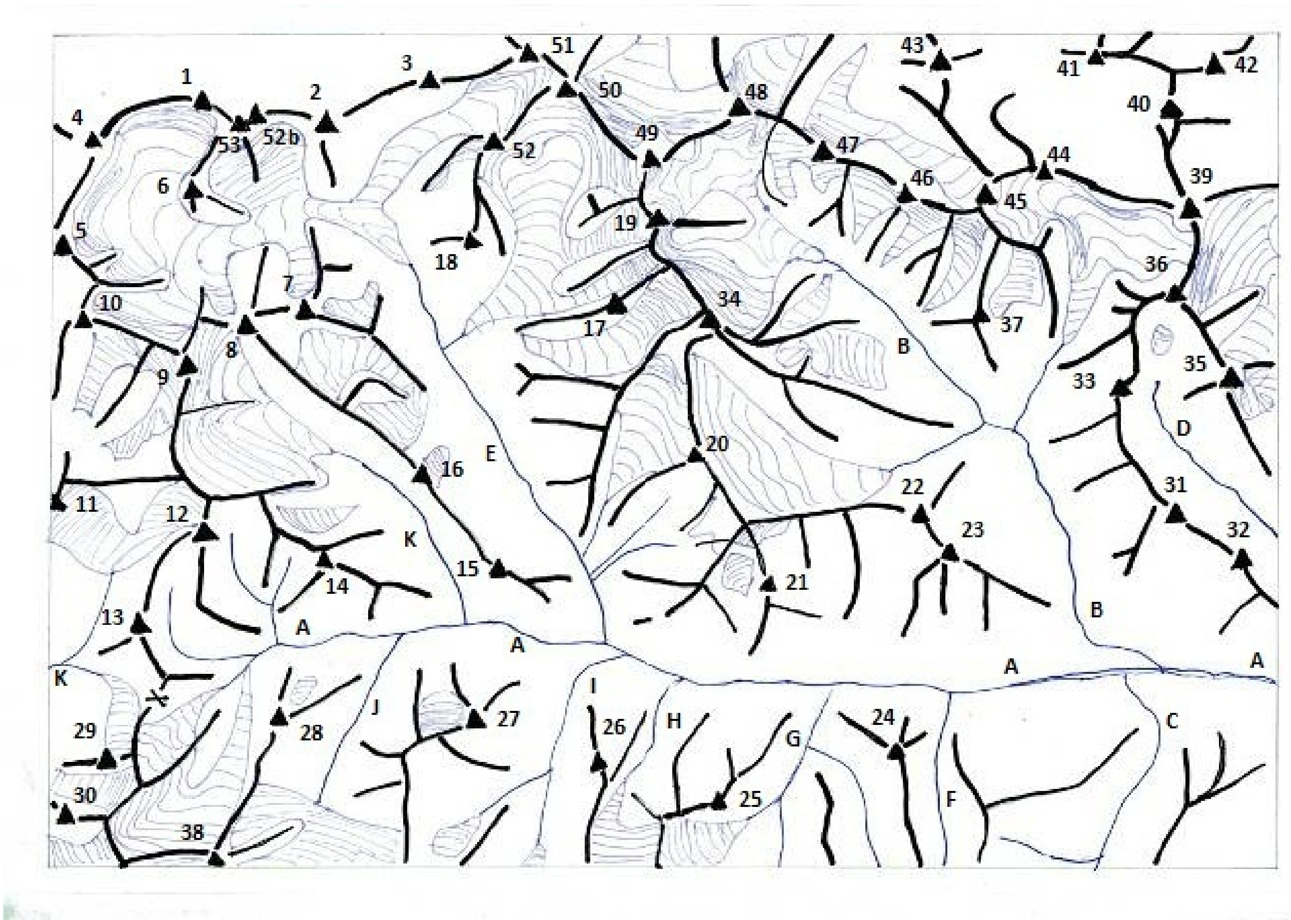
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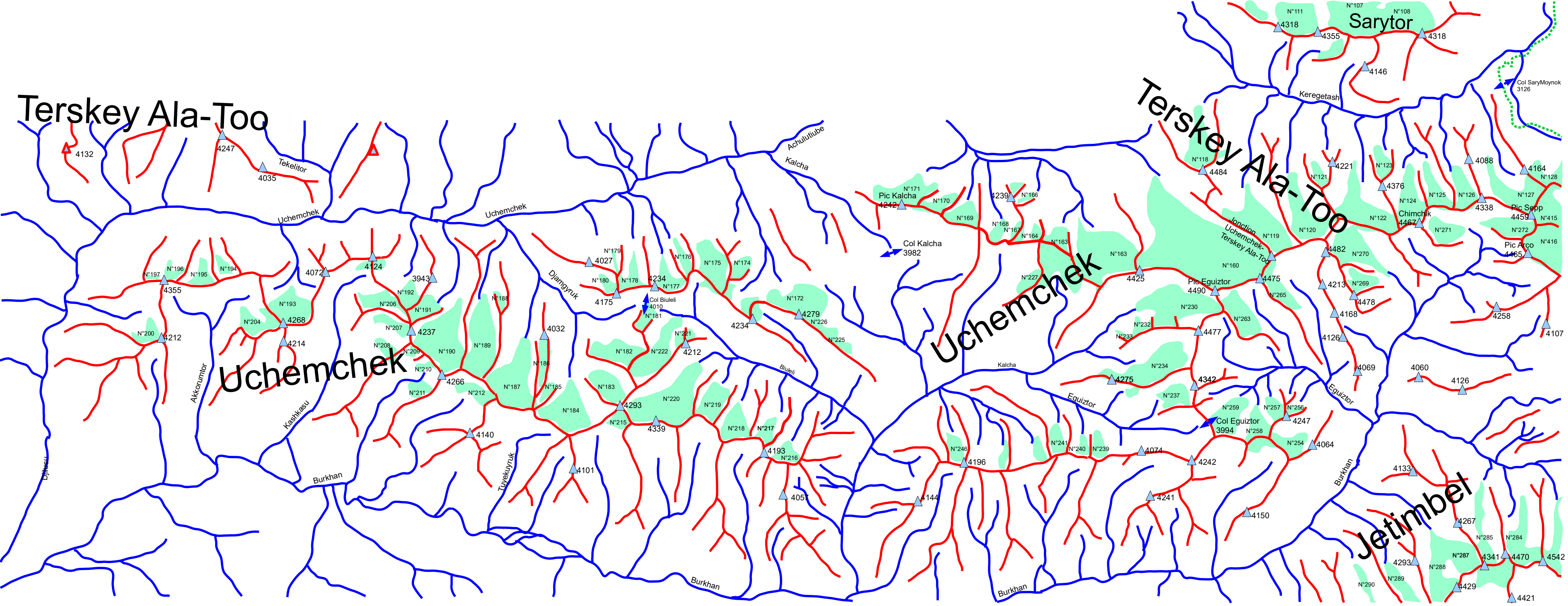
figure 4. Orograpic map of southern spurs of Terskey Ala-Too range, the basin of Kuilu river

Peaks	**Peaks (next)**	**Peaks (next)**	**Peaks (next)**	**Rivers**
1.Djigit, 5170	16.4344	31.4237	46.4610	A. Kuilu
2.4612	17.4380	32.4234	47.4720	B. Sary-Chat
3.4365	18.4420	33.4479	48.4533	C. Oroï-Suu
4.Festivalnaia, 4726	19.4795	34.4930	49.4565	D. Charkyratma
5.4620	20.4676	35.4509	50.4721	E. Karakol-Tor
6.4554	21.4253	36.4602	51.4523	F. Kara-Suu
7.4566	22.4400	37.4569	52.4520	G. Bordytor
8.4610	23.4352	38.4616,2	52b.4271	H. Manashi-Tach
9.4610	24.4150	39.4509	53.4859	I. Karator
10.4709	25.4361	40.4663		J. AshuuTor (affluent Kuilu)
11.4676	26.4285,4	41.4275		K. Eky-Chut
12.4849	27.4369,7	42.4520		L. Kuilu -Zapadnaïa (ouest)
13.4551	28.4289,4	43.4260		
14.4612	29.4641	44.4743		X. Kuilu Pass, 4303
15.4210	30.4609	45.4650		



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Uchemchek
Achulutiube
Kalcha
Sarytor
N°111
N°107
N°108
4318
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Keregetash
Col SaryMoynok
3126
Terskey Ala-Too
N°118
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Pic Kalcha
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Chimchik
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Pic Sepp
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N°120
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Jonction Uchemchek-Terskey Ala-Too
Pic Arco
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N°163
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N°227
Uchemchek
Pic Eguiztor
4490
N°265
4213
N°269
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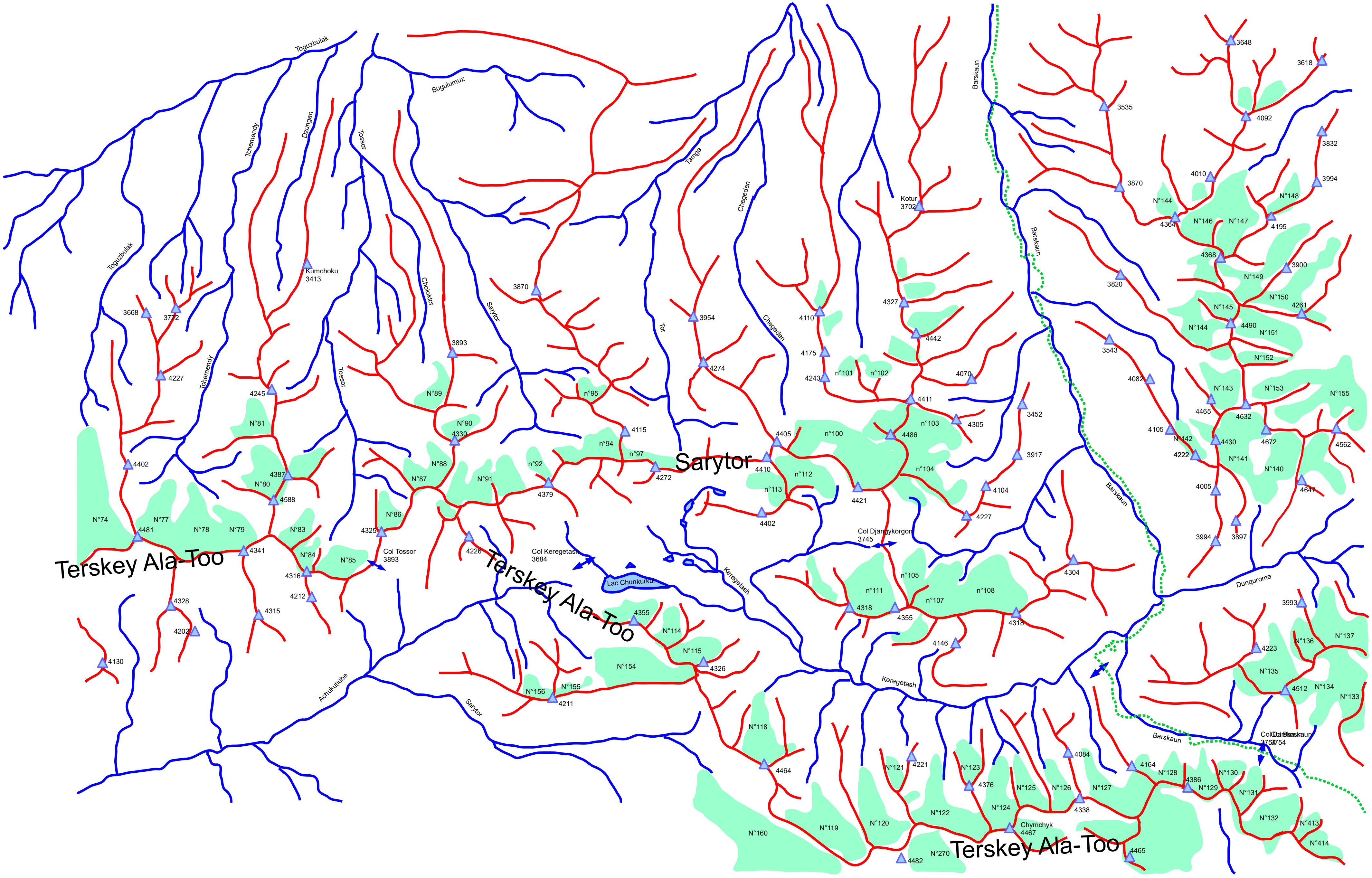
Burkhan
Burkhan

Orographic scheme of Uchemchek range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Orographic scheme of The Sarytor Mountains

A.2.5) The Western Terskey Ala-Too, range of Peak Kumdebe 4762

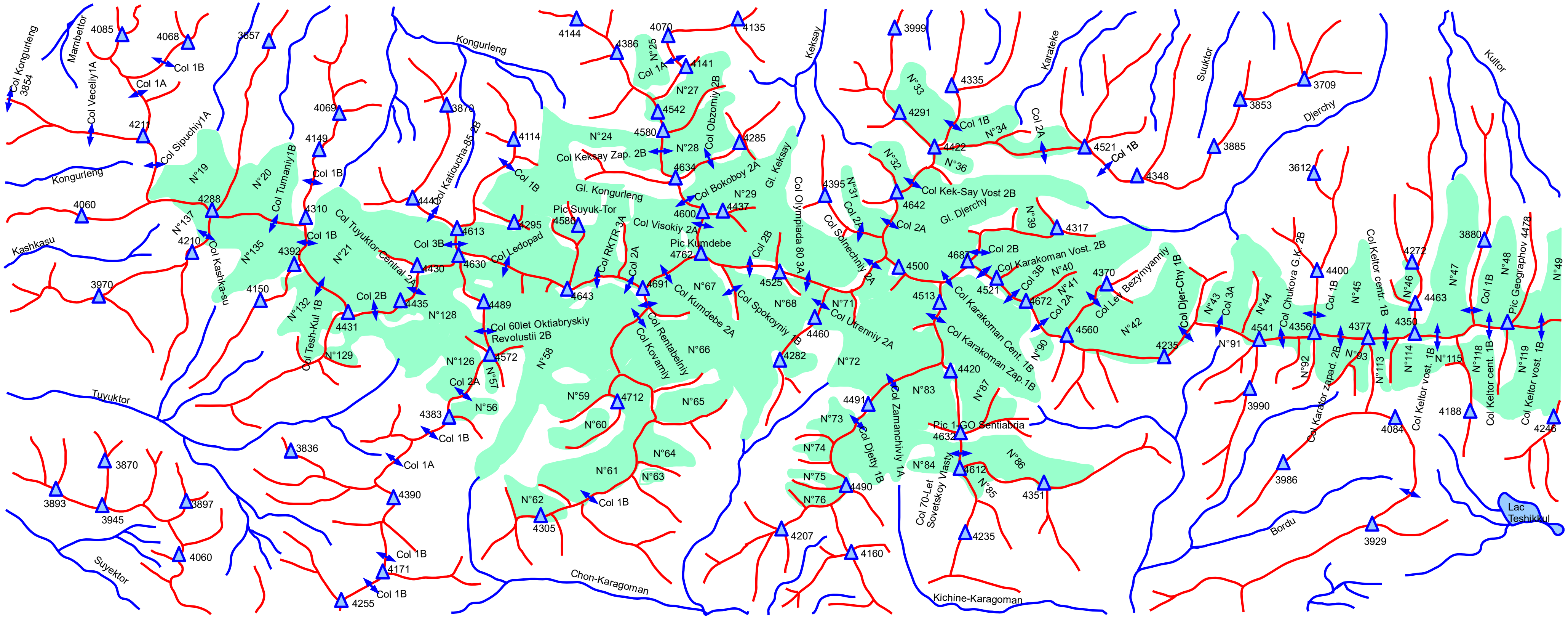
This part stretches for 180 km from the Barskaun gorge to Kochkor village, the further west. There are more than 100 unclimbed peaks over 4,000 meters high. There are lots of possibilities for quite easy ascents.

It is mainly the conformation more "soft" in this mountain region that has excluded it from the historical circuit of the Soviet mountaineering. As in the Alps, the challenge remained the technical performance, which was added preparation in high altitude ascents of the Central Tien-Shan. That is why the valleys Karakol and Djety-Oguz were chosen as training ground, focusing only to themselves, the difficult 5000 of the Terskey range. Indeed this area combined technical difficulty, variety, strong elevation and steep slopes, everything that can be found on the Central Tien-Shan 6000-7000 summits, and valleys were close enough. Also the Western zones were long neglected but since independence in 1991 and the years 2000, exploration delay is gradually filled at least for the course of the huge ice caps by various passes from any side (North, South , East and West). The actual summits ascents are often still the exception, probably due a “cultural” approach of the mountain slightly different.

So this is a perfect ground for glacier journeys, a choice for lovers high altitude, great snowy fields and wide natural landscapes.The region of Peak Kumdebe at 4762 m is worth well noted, easily recognizable on all cards regardless of the scale. The Peak Kumdebe is reached either by the West from the Kongurleng valley or Kek-say valley to the east. This Terskey Ala-Too region has more gentle slopes with vast glaciated areas, but it is not impossible to find there sometimes more technical rocky path. Many passes were climbed and much of which are ice-pass category 2A (PD), but it is not impossible to meet terminal glacial slopes 3A (AD). The listing of the climbed peaks is rarely given but it seems to match the same difficulty. So there can be no doubt enough to fill a hiking program with a few weeks abundant harvest of 4000 and one is garantee to never returned the same place.

There are fairly good accesses by the off-road vehicle to basically any region, and generally walking time is short to the point of climbing, often 1-3 hours walk, rarely 4-5 hours.

Cartography. Maps 1/100 000th k43-071 and k43-072.



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Col Sipuchiy1A
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Col 1B
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Kongurleng
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4114
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Col Obzorniy 2B
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Col Keksay Zap. 2B
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Col Bokoboy 2A
Gl. Kongurleng
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Col Karakoman Zap. 1B
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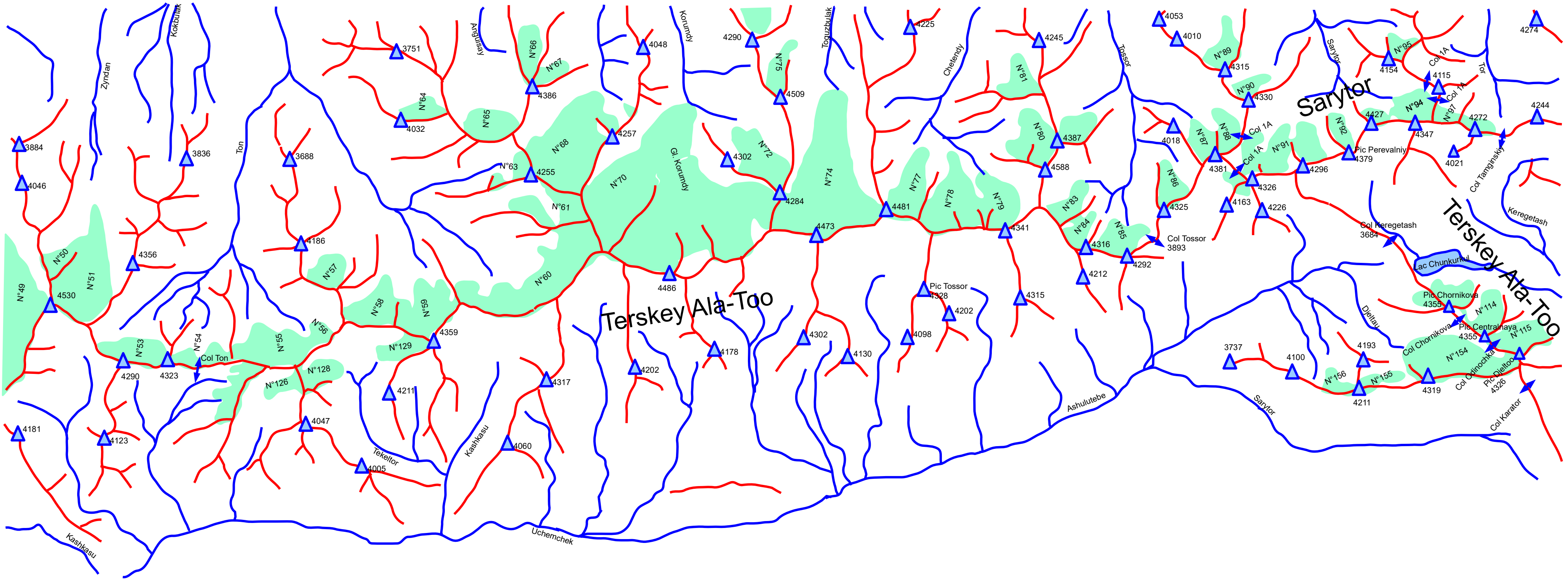
Chon-Karagoman
Kichine-Karagoman

Orographic Scheme of Western Terskey Ala-Too – Kumdebe area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Terskey Ala-Too
Terskey Ala-Too
Keregetash
Lac Chunkurchak
Djeltau
Ashulutebe
Sarytor
Kashkasu
Tekeltor
Kashkasu
Uchemchek
Gl. Korumdy
Col Ton
Col Tossor
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Col Keregetash
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Col 1A
Col Tamginskiy
Pic Perevalniy
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Pic Tossor
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Pic Chornikova
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Pic Centralnaya
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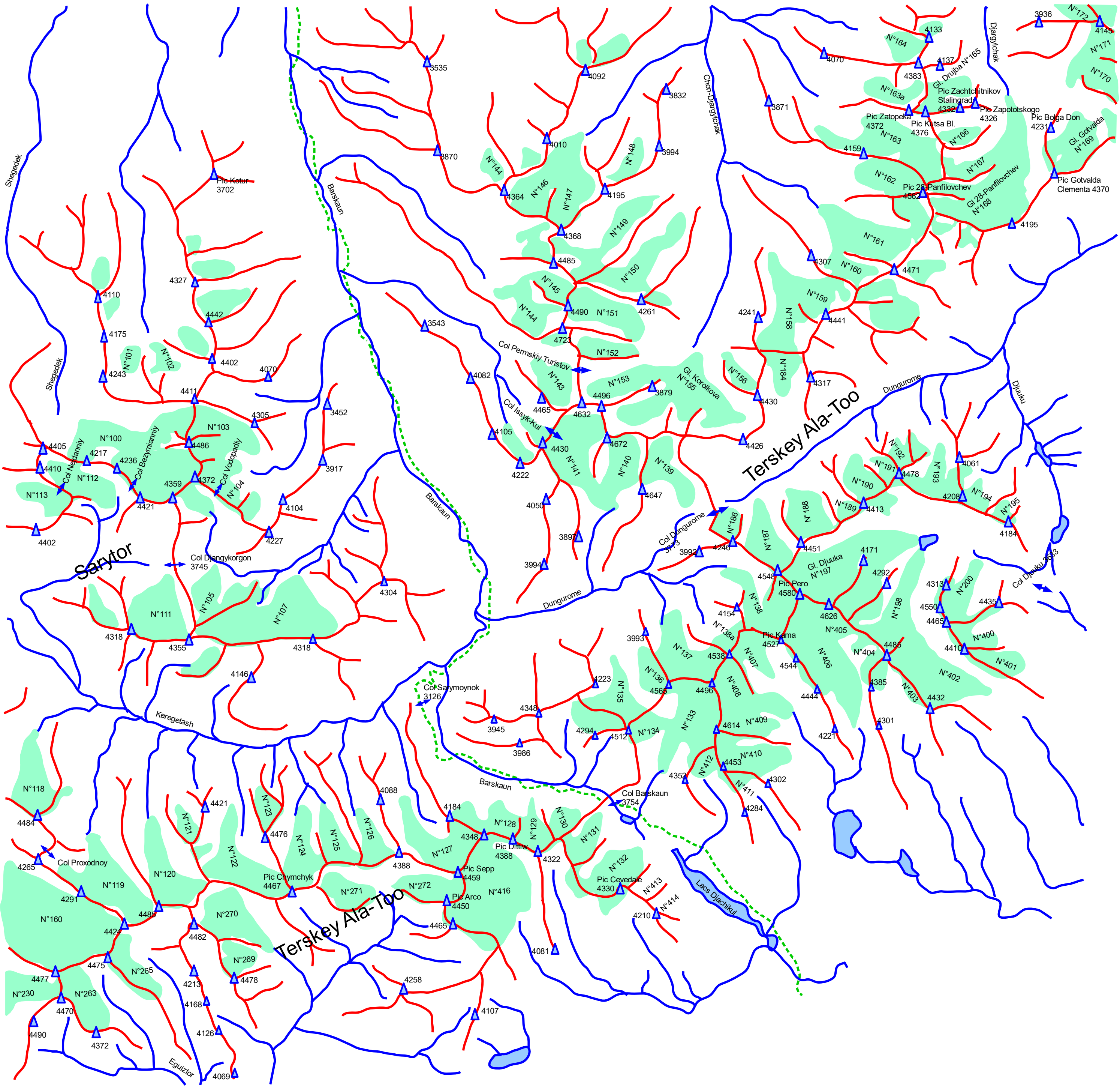
Orographic Scheme of Western Terskey Ala-Too – central area


Terskey Ala-Too
Terskey Ala-Too
Sarytor
Shegedek
Shegedek
Barskaun
Barskaun
Barskaun
Chon-Djargylchak
Djargylchak
Dungurome
Dungurome
Djuuku
Keregetash
Eguiztor
Lacs Djachiikul
Pic Kotur 3702
Col Djangykorgon 3745
Col Nedanniy
Col Bezymianniy
Col Vodopadiy
Col Permskiy Turistov
Col Issyk-Kul
Col Dungurome 3773
Col Djuuku 3813
Col Sarymoynok 3126
Col Barskaun 3754
Col Proxodnoy
Gl. Korolkova N°155
Gl. Djuuka N°197
Gl. Drujba N°165
Gl. Gotvalda N°169
Gl 28-Panfilovchev N°168
Pic Zachtchitnikov Stalingrad 4332
Pic Zatopeka 4372
Pic Zapototskogo 4326
Pic Kutsa Bl. 4376
Pic Bolga Don 4231
Pic Gotvalda Clementa 4370
Pic 28 Panfilovchev 4562
Pic Pero 4580
Pic Kama 4527
Pic Chymchyk 4467
Pic Sepp 4459
Pic Arco 4450
Pic Dittiw 4388
Pic Cevedale 4330
N°100
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4413
4208
4184
4110
4175
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4411
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3452
4405
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4217
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4402
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4265
4291
4485
4424
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4210

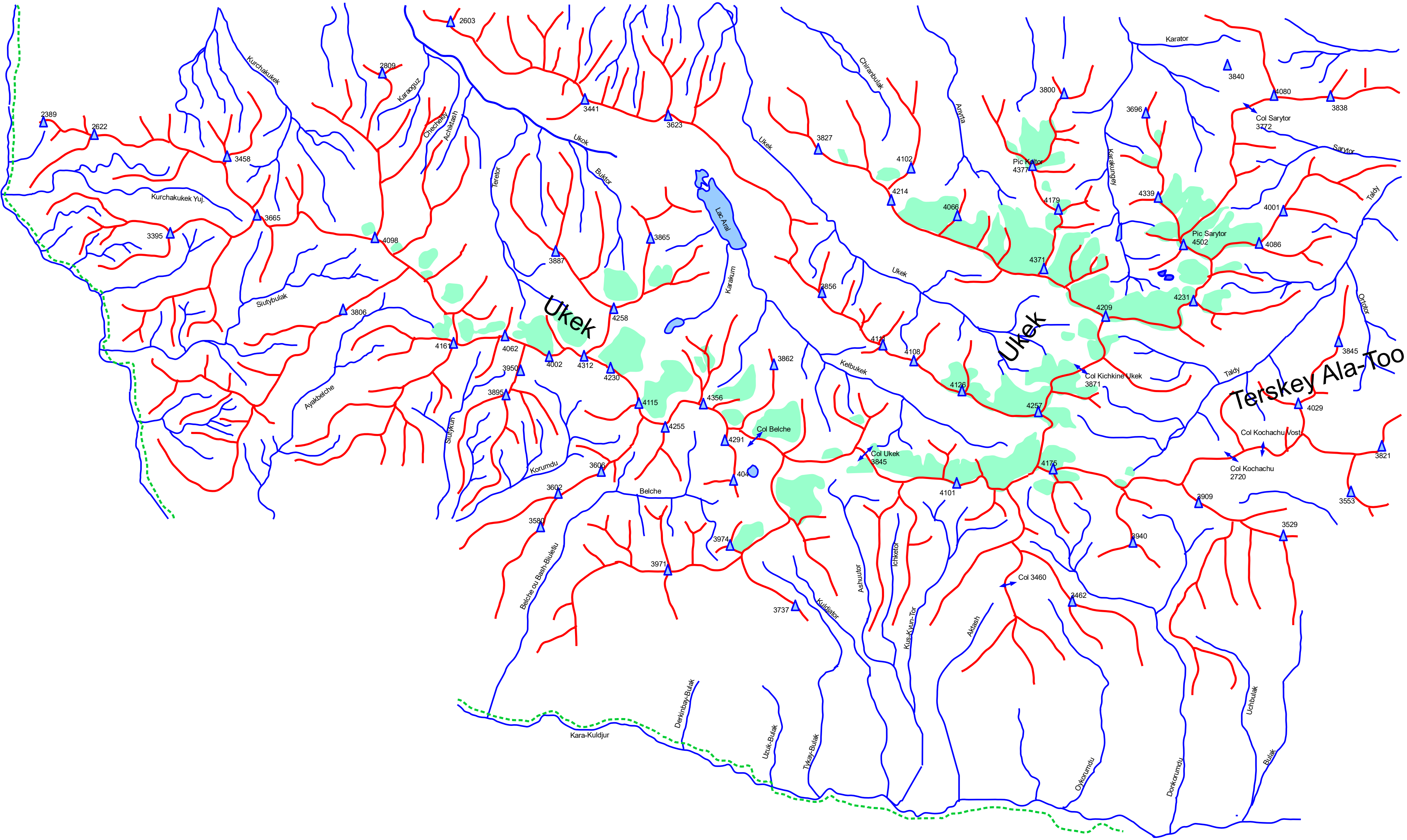
Orographic Scheme of Western Terskey Ala-Too – Barskaun pass area

A.2.6) The Ukek Range, westernmost of Terskey Ala-Too

The Ukek range is the westernmost of Terskey Ala-Too, it is also the driest part, with a much smaller ice system restricted to the northern slopes above 4000 m. Its highest peak is at 4502, Peak Sarytor. It is considered separate from the main crest of Terskey Ala-Too, by the low altitude pass Kochachu at 2720 m and Taldy River Valley. These mountains are nonetheless structurally related to Terskey Ala-Too. The terrain is drier and mineral, finding most important elevation from bottom to top.

These mountains are very close to the town of Kochkor, an important road junction point to the Naryn region, on the road Bishkek, Ribache. Enough to say that the foothills are easily accessible. One can walk upper several valleys in general by one or two days of hiking to get closer to climbing spots and establish base camps: the Ukek, the Karakungey, the Taldy and Kelbulek and the imposing Aral Lake. The challenges of mountaineering are little known, definitely rock. This lack of knowledge in this case, presume nothing in Kyrgyzstan, especially when obviously so many areas are still too little explored.

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-68, k43-69 ; 1/200 000th: k43-16, k43-17


2603
2809
Kurchakukek
Karaoguz
Chechetty
Achiktash
3441
3623
Ukok
Buktor
Teretor
2389
2622
3458
Kurchakukek Yuj.
3665
3395
4098
3887
3865
Lac Aral
Karakum
Siutybulak
3806
Ukek
4258
4161
4062
4002
4312
4230
3950
3895
Ayakbelche
Siutykum
4115
4356
3862
4255
Col Belche
4291
3606
Korumdu
3602
Belche
404
3580
3974
3971
Belche ou Bash-Biulellu
3737
Kuldjator
Ashuutor
Ichketor
Kus-Kyun-Tor
Aktash
Col Ukek
3845
4101
Col 3460
3462
4175
3940
3909
3529
Col Kochachu
2720
Col Kochachu Vost
3553
3821
4029
3845
Terskey Ala-Too
Ortotor
Taldy
Col Kichkine Ukek
3871
4257
4126
Kelbukek
4108
411
Ukek
4209
4231
3856
Ukek
4371
4179
4066
4214
4102
3827
Ukek
Chiranbulak
Anyrta
3800
Pic Kaltor
4377
Karakungey
3696
4339
Pic Sarytor
4502
4086
4001
Taldy
Sarytor
Col Sarytor
3772
4080
3838
3840
Karator
Kara-Kuldjur
Derkinbay-Bulak
Uzuk-Bulak
Tykay-Bulak
Oykorumdu
Donkorumdu
Uchbulak
Bulak

Orographic Scheme of Ukek Range and Westernmost of Terskey Ala-Too

A.2.7) Panorama of Terskey Ala-Too valleys

To get an overall view of Terskey Ala-Too valleys is not easy especially when its east-west extension is around 400 km. Perhaps a list of the main valleys and access constitutes a first step. This non-exhaustive list and mainly reduced to great valleys without necessarily mention all the highest tributaries, ordered east to west, from the Kazakhstan border and Karkara River to Kochkor at West.

List of the main valleys in the east of the pass Barskaun (in East-West order)

From Karkara (Border Kazakhstan-Kirghizstan)
- Karkara
- Turuk, affluent du Karkara
- Chon-Djakalau, affluent du Karkara

From San-Tash, Karkara - confluence Tyun
- Tyun

From Djyrgalan
- Djyrgalan

From Ak-Bulak, Road to Chon-Ashuu Pass
- Turgen-Aksu
- Tashtembektor
- Kokkianyn-suu

From Novo-Constantinovka (Road to Chon-Ashuu Pass)
- Djergues

From Karakol
- Aksu (From Tepkliuchenka)
- Arashan (From Tepkliuchenka)
- Karakol (From Karakol)
- Djety-Oguz (From Djety-Oguz)

From Pokrovka et Saruu
- Chon-Kyzylsu
- Kichine-Kyzylsu
- Djuuku

From Chon-Djargylchak and Kychy-Djargylchak
- Kychy-Djargylchak
- Chon-Djargylchak

List of the main valleys in the west of Barskaun Pass (in East-West order)

From Barskaun-Tamga
- Barskaun
- Tamga

From Tossor (bassin de la rivière Tossor)
- Sarytor
- Tossor
- Chetyndy
- Toguzbulak

From Bokombaevo
- Korumdy
- Tuyuktor
- Ton
- Bassin de l'Ak-Say : Kultor, Djer-Chy, Suuktor, Kara-Teke, Kek-Say

From Dengtala, Kongurleyng, Alabash
- Kongurleyng
- Mambettor
- Ichketor
- Sarytor

From Turasu
- Turasu
- Ulaxol
- Taldy : tributary of Ulaxol
- Sarytor : tributary of Ulaxol

List of valleys on Ukek Range - extreme western Terskey Ala-Too

From Karakungey
- Karakungey

From Kochkor
- Ukek
- Kelbukek
- Testor

A.3. Kyrgyz Ala-Too range

The Kyrgyz range is the most extensive in the Tien-Shan. It stretches for 400 km latitudewise from western brink of lake Issik-Kul up to Taraz town (former Jambul) in Kazakhstan. Climbers prefer northern slopes of the central part of the range stretching for 100 km from the Aksuu gorge in the west till Kegety gorge in the east. All canyons are accessed by roads.

A.3.1) Ala-Archa and Alamedin canyons (figures 5, 6 and 6b)

Location. It takes 45 minutes by the good road to get from the capital city of Bishkek to the canyons. They are situated 40 km south of the city in the northern spur of Kyrgyz range. The regions are administrated by the Alamedinskiy raion of Chuyskaya oblast.

Characteristic features. The highest point in the area is Semenov-Tianshanskiy Peak (4,895 m) near Ak-Say valley (Ala-Archa river basin). The second altitude summit is Peak Kyrgyzstan (4875 m) in the valley of Salyk (watershed of Alamedin). Located about ten kilometers from each other in a straight line, it is clear that these two summits focused around them the most impressive glacial and rock faces on the 400 kilometers of extension of Kyrgyz Ala-Too. Routes are mostly rocky and combined, rarely icy and ice-snow. Rocks are formed by strong intrusive rocks – granites and granodiorites. The elevation goes up to 1,100 m. The rocky walls of northern aspect are usually covered with ice and compose mostly combined and ice routes. The southern, western and eastern aspect walls are typically dry and consist of solid rocks.

Climate. The climate of the region is acutely continental like of all the country. Annual precipitation is 700 mm. The least amount falls in August - September and the heaviest in May-June. The average temperature in summer is +12°C and in winter -7°C, autumn and spring average temperature is +3°C.

Ala-Archa canyon (figure 5)

Climbing opportunities. The most popular and mostly visited region in Kyrgyz range is area of the Ak-Say glacier in the Ala-Archa canyon (figure 5, pictures 19-35). More than 160 routes have been taken here. The routes are of different complexity from the easy ones to the most difficult walls up to 1100 meters high (Svobodnya Korea peak). Rocky ridge belts around the Ak-Say, Nauka and Uchitel glaciers in a horse shoe shape. It includes the following summits: Box (4,200m), Teke-Tor (4,441m), Ak-Too (4,600m), Svobodnaya Korea (4,740m), Simagin (4,400m), Bailyan-Bashi (4,700m), Cosmonavtov (4,200m), Dvurogaya (4,380m), Corona (4,855m), Semenov-Tienshanskiy (4,895m), Skryabina (4,650m), Baichichekei (4,515m) and Uchitel (4,527m).

Up the course of the Ala-Archa river, large glacial valleys bordering the right bank of Ak-Say is also particularly interesting in ice races and mixed icy-rock. However these valleys do not have easy access so that the Ak-Say glacier. It Includes glaciers Topkaragay, Tuyuk, Golubina and the vast circus of Northern Ala-Archa, southernmost located him on the back of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too. It usually takes between 8-15 hours to walk from Alplager to reach the base camps of the various glacial moraines. Those glaciers around the Ak-Say one concentrates high-altitude climbs above 4400, and on the backbone of range elevations rather reach 4200 m.

Another glacial valley, is the Adyghene that is also popular, offering a small North glacial slopes between 3800 and 4200. It is located on the left bank of the Ala-Archa.

Camps. There are two all-year round hotels in the Ala-Archa canyon by the end of the road where a trial to the Ak-Say glacier starts. In summer few cafes and grocery stores are open. Three mountain huts can accommodate climbers at the Ak-Say glacier, two of them are small framehouses – Corona and Nauka, approximately 4x4m (photos 36-37) and another one is comfortable stone house – Ak-Say (photo 38) at the Razek camp which can accommodate up to 40 people. Next to the hut there are framehouses equipped as kitchens and also clear area for tents which can fit up to 40 tents.

The valley of Adyghene is also provided with accommodation in the geological observatory refuge of Adyghene at the edge of melting glacier lake and is responsible for its oversight. A former ski base in the Soviet Union's time is at the foot of North circus of Ala-Archa, offering a free access unguarded refuge. There is an old cabin in the moraine area of Golubina glacier, but its location is to be confirmed. It is not maintained for over thirty years. Under these conditions, in these remote areas, it is advisable to provide all the equipment to make its own shipping camp.

Access. The distance from Bishkek to the end of the road in canyon is 45 km and takes about 30-40 minutes by car. From the end of the road 3-4 hours hike will take you to the big Ak-Say hut at Razek campsite. One can use public transport from Bishkek to the village of Kashka-Suu, and continue the last kilometers that enters the Ala-Archa National Park. Other gorges and glaciers of Ala-Archa canyon such as the Adyghene, Topkaragay, Tuyuk, Golubina, Big Alaarchinskiy and small Alaarchinskiy are not as often visited as the Ak-Say. It’s reasoned by the lack of unique climbing possibilities in which Ak-Say abounds. Elevation is 600 m and routes are mostly simple or of middle difficulty however there are plenty of possibilities for new routes. Each time, you will establish your own base camp, which is easily recognized for temporary accommodations made by your predecessors. In Adyghene shepherds have built small wooden bridges. There is even a small breeding yaks area. The trails are sometimes marked, sometimes simple footpaths of cattle. In the Valley of Adyghene to reach the base camp at 3600m under Elektra, it takes 4-5 hours of walking. The base camp at the foot of the glacier Topkaragay is achieved in 8-9 hours walking. Glaciers Tuyuk, Golubina and the pass of Ala-Archa are accessible in a day and a half walk. All these other sectors are rarely visited.

Ala-Archa canyon is also Natural Park and there is admission fee for both cars and people.

Cartography. Maps 1/50,000 k43-053-2 and 4 and k43-054-1 and 3; 1/100,000 k43-053 and k43-054.

Climbing routes of Ak-Say Glacier area (Ala-Arch George on Kyrgyz Ala-Too Range)
Status at July 1st, 2016

Kyrgyz Alpine Club
of Republic of Kyrgyzstan
Routes count according grades (Russian grades):
1B - **8**, 2A – **13**, 2B – **4**, 3A – **12**, 3B -11, 4A – **9**, 4B – **18**, 5A – **33**, 5B – **40**, 6A – **11**, ∑- **159** (from its Korona Peak 38 routes, Svobodnaia Korea (Free Korea) Peak 25 routes).
Accounted as classified routes, as non classified routes. Estimation of non classified routes was done according of first ascent team estimation. First ascent in the area was done on 1938 by V.Ozarovskii on Uchitel Peak.

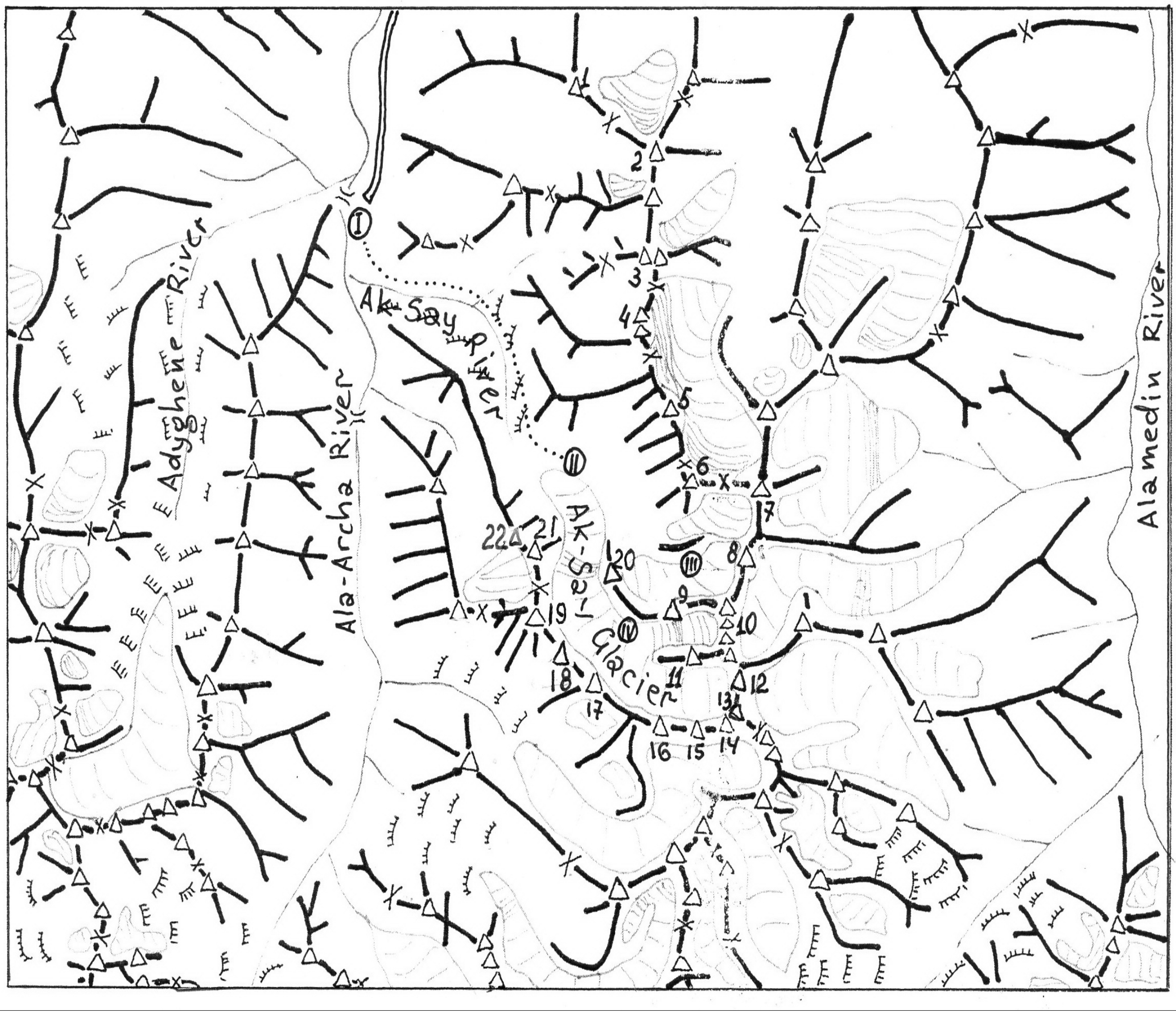


Fig. 1. Orographic Scheme of Ak-Say Glacier area, Ala-Archa Gorge, Kyrgyz Range. Peak numbers on the Scheme: 1 – Pioneer Peak, 2 -Komsomolets Peak, 3 - Pavlika Morozova Peak, 4 – Olega Koshevogo Peak, 5 – Uchitel (Ticher) Peak, 6 – Baichichikey Peak, 7 – Skriabina Peak, 8 – Semionova Tien-Shanskogo Peak, 9 – Korona west Peak, 10 – Korona Peak, 11 – Izyskatel Peak, 12 – Dvurogaia Peak, 13 – Kosmonavtov Peak, 14 – Bailian-Bashi Peak, 15 – Simaghina Peak, 16 – Svobodnaia Korea (Free Korea) Peak, 17 – Ak-Too Peak, 18 – Trezubets Peak, 19 – Teke-Tor Peak, 20 – Ratseka Peak, 21 – Boks Peak, 22 – Pero Peak. Buildings in the area: I -Natural Park Ala-Archa, II – Ak-Say hut on Ratsek Stop, Nauka hut, Korona hut.

Peak, altitude meters, number on the map, number of photos			
Summit. Route N° on a photo	**First climbing team leeder, route**	**Grade**	**Year of first ascent**

№1, Pioneer Peak, 4050, Photo N°1			
1.1	Маречек Б. (с С) / Marechek B. (from N) / Face Nord	2А	1950
1.2	с пер. Кашка-Су / from Kashka-Su Pass / du Col Kashka-Su	1Б/1B	
1.3	по З гр. / along W Ridge / par l'arête Ouest	1Б/1B	

№2, Komsomolets Peak, 4134			
2.1	С пер. Фиолетовый / from Fioletovyi (Violet) Pass / du col Fioletovyi Violet)	1Б/1B	
2.2	с пер. Кашка-Суу / from Kashka-Su Pass / du Col Kashka-Su	1Б/1B	

№3, Pavlika Morozova Peak, 4200, Photo N°2			
3.1	Ч-з Красную Горку с пер Фиолетовый / from Fioletovyi Pass over red m-t/ du col Fioletovyi	2А	1949
3.2	по З гр. / along W Ridge / par l'arête Ouest	1Б/1B	

№4, Olega Koshevogo Peak, 4300			
4.1	с С на Ю / from N to S / du Nord au Sud	3А	
4.2	с Ю на С / from S to N / du Sud au Nord	3А	

№5, Учитель, 4527м, фото №3, 4 / Uchitel (Teacher) Peak, 4527, Photos N°3,4 / Pic Uchitel (Maître)			
5.1	Озаровский В./ Ozaroskii V.	1Б/1B	1938
5.2	Шлунегер А. по З кул. и Ю гр. / Schlunegger A. W cul. and S ridge / Couloir Ouest et arête Sud	2А	2011

№6, Baichichikey (Snowdrop) Peak, 4515, Photos N°4,5,6			
6.1	Тустукбаев А. л. кулуару З ст. / Tustukbaiev A. left culuar of W wall / Couloir gauche en face Ouest	2А	1969
6.2	Селиверстов С. / Seliverstov S.	3Б/3B	2012
6.3	Илюшенко А. / Ilushenko A.	4Б/4B	1989
6.4	Кузьменко Б. / Kuzmenko B.	5А	1977
6.5	Дашкевич С. / Dashkevich S.	5А	2007
6.6	Павленко Д. / Pavlenko D.	5А	2010
6.7	Поляк В. / Poliak V.	5А	1983
6.8	Калашников А. / Kalashnikov A.	5А	1986
6.9	Шваб А. / Shvab A.	5А	1980
6.10	Михайлов М. / Mikhailov M.	5А	1999
6.11	Чечулин А., Корнеев А. / Chechulin A., Korneev A.	4А	2008
6.12	Москалев А. с В / Moskaliov A. From E / Versant Est	1Б/1B	1948

№7, Skriabina Peak, 4753, Photo N°7			
7.1	З гр. / along W Ridge / Arête Ouest	3А	
7.2	Евсюков Г. / Evsukov G.	3А	1972

№8, Semionova T-Sh Peak, Higher summit of Kyrghyz Ala-Too, 4895, Photos N°7,8			
8.1	Плакущев И. / Plakuschev I.	3А	1987
8.2	Скотников Д.,Маркевич К. / Skotnikov D., Markiewicz K.	5Аз	2015
8.3	Федоров А. / Fedorov A.	5А	2013
8.4	Наговицина Е. / Nagovitsyna E.	5А	1999
8.5	Захаров Н. / Zakharov N.	5А	1988
8.6	Дашкевич А. / Dashkevich A.	5Аз	2011
8.7	Никифоренко О. / Nikifirenko O.	5А	1988
8.8	Плотников И.пр.часть З стены / Plotnikov I. Right part of W wall / Partie droite de la face Ouest	5А	1996
8.9	Еропунов А.Н. / Eropunov A.	3А	1952
8.10	Шубин А. / Shubin A.	3Б/3В	1950
8.11	Губаев А. / Ghubaev A.	3Б/3В	1987
8.12	Потоцкий А. Марк Айткен / Potocki A. Mark Aitken	4А	2015

№9, Korona West Peak, 4300, Photo N°9			
9.1	Федоров А. / Fedorov A.	4Аз	
9.2	Селиверстов С. / Seliverstov S.	5Аз	2013
9.3	Дашкевич С. / Dashkevich S.	4Б/4Вз	2010
9.4	Новосельцев Е. / Novoseltsev E.	4Б/4В	2002
9.5	СеливерстовС. (соло) / Seliverstov S/ (solo)	5Аз	2013
9.6	Brown W. M6+	4Б/4В	2012
9.7	Акимов В. / Akimov V.	3Б/3В	1994
9.8	Сыщиков А. с ЮЗ / Syschikov A. From SW / Face Sud-Ouest	3Б/3В	2014

№ 10, Korona Peak, 1st buttress, 4840, Photos N°9,10			
10.1	Гаврилов Б. / Gavrilov B.	4А	1956
10.2	?	4А	1989
10.3	Павленко Д. (соло) / Pavlenko D. (solo)	5Б/5В	2009
10.4	Королев В. / Koroliev V.	5Б/5В	1980
10.5	Попов Ф. / Popov F.	5Б/5В	1976
10.6	Плотников И./ Plotnikov I.	5Б/5В	1995
10.7	Смирнов Ю./ Smirnov U.	5Б/5В	1962
10.8	Ручкин А. / Ruchkin A.	5А	2000
10.9	Селиверстов С., Акбуюков Д. /Seliverstov S., Akbuiukov D.	5Аз	2014
10.10	Калюгин К. / Kavughin K.	5Б/5В	1982
10.11	Ручкин А.(соло) / Ruchkin A.(solo)	5Б/5В	2000
10.12	Плотников И. / Plotnikov i.	4А	1995
10.13	Белобаченко Е. / Belobachenko E.	3А	1976
10.14	Башманов Ю.,Королев В.по кам. с З / Bashmnov Iu., along chimney from W / le long de la cheminée face Ouest	3А	1980

№10, Buttress 1, 2, 3 of Korona Peak, Photo N°10			
10.15	2 башня с ЮЗ / Buttress 2 from S ridge / Tour n°2 par l'Arête Sud	2А	?
10.16	2 башня с СЗ / Buttress 2 from NW ridge / Tour n°2 par l'Arête Nord-Ouest	2А	?

№10,4th buttress of Korona Peak, Photo №11			
10.17	Темерев И. / Temerev I.	5А	2014

№10, 5th buttress of Korona Peak, 4850, Photo №11			
10.18	Егоров В. / Egorov V.	5А	?
10.19	Садовский В. / Sadovskii V.	5Б/5В	1968
10.20	Михайлов М. / Mihailov M.	5Б/5В	
10.21	Балезин В. / Balezin V.	6А	1994
10.22	Ружевский В. / Ruzhevskii V.	5Б/5В	1976
10.23	Маркевич К. / Markevich K.	6А	2013

№10, 6th buttress atris of Korona Peak, 4840, Photo N° 11			
10.24	Сыщиков А, Ткач Н. / Syschikopv A., Tkach N.	5Б/5Вз	2015
10.25	Глуховцев А. / Gluhovtsev A.	5Б/5В	1963
10.26	Логинов И. / Loghiniv I.	5Б/5В	2013
10.27	Андреев Р. с перемычки между Двурогой и 6 башней / Andreev R. edge between two pillars and 6th Buttress / Un pont entre deux gendarmes et la 6ème tour	4Б/4В	1959

№10, Traverses of Korona Peak, Photo N°10,11			
10.28	2-3 башни / Buttress 2-3 / Tour 2-3	3А	?
10.29	3-2 бащни / Buttress 3-2 / Tour 3-2	3А	?
10.30	1-6 башни, Гаврилов В./ Buttress 1-6 Gavrilov V. / Tour 1-6	5А	1956
10.31	6-1 башни/ Buttress 6-1 / Tour 6-1	5А	?

№11, Izyskatel Peak, 4400, Photos N°12,14,15			
11.1	Боголюбов В. / Bogolubov V.	2А	1982
11.2	Родиков А. /Rodikov A.	3Б/3В	1988
11.3	Глухов В./Glukhov V.	3Б/3В	1967
11.4	Селиверстов С., Филинов В. /Seliverstov S., Filinov V.	4Б/4В	2014
11.5	Groodayzi Narges (Iranian team,, left part of N slope, route name "OMID93") / (équipe iranienne, partie gauche de la face nord, nom de la voie OMID93)	3А	2016

№12, Dvurogaia Peak,4380, Photo N°11			
12.1	Кулемин М. / Kulemin M.	4Б/4В	1960
12.2	Нескородов А. / Neskorodov A.	5Аз	2012

№13, Kosmonavtov Peak, 4368, N°13, Photos N°13,14,15 /			
13.1	Саратовкин В. по ЮЗ кулуару и Ю гр. / Seratovkin V.	3Б/3В	1962
13.2	Кузменко Б. по СЗ кулуару и С гр. / Kuzmenko B.	4Б/4В	1981

№14, Bailian-Bashi Peak, 4737, Photos N°13,14,15			
14.1	Еропунов А(тр.1-5б) / Eropunov A.	4А	1952
14.2	Денисов В. / Denisov V.	5А	1970
14.3	Некрасов А. /Nekrasov A.	5А	1984
14.4	Павленко Д. / Pevlenko D.	5А	2010
14.5	Кузьменко Б. / Kuzmenko B.	6А	?
14.6	Дашкевич А. / Dashkevich A.	5Б/5В	2010
14.7	Мансуров Б. / Mansurov B.	5Б/5В	1961

№15, Simaghin Peak, 4400, Photo N°15,16			
15.1	Белинский Б. / Belinskii B.	5Б/5В	1969
15.2	Полевой И. / Polevoi I.	5Б/5В	1969
15.3	Родиков А. / Rodikov A.	4Б/4В	1990

№16, Svobodnaia Korea Peak, 4740, Photo N°16			
16.1	Агафонов А. / Agafonov A.	5Б/5В	1991
16.2	Балезин В. / Balezin V.	5Б/5В	1991
16.3	Сыщиков А., Черемных А. / Syschikov A., Cheremnyh A.	5Б/5В	2015
16.4	Шваб А. /Shvab A.	5Б/5В	1982
16.5	Балезин В. / Balezin V.	5Б/5В	2000
16.6	Иванов Н. / Ivanov N.	6А	2004
16.7	Студенин Б. / Studenin B.	6А	1966
16.8	Кустовский А. / Kustovskii A.	6А	1969
16.9	Михайлов М. / Mihailov M.	6А	1999
16.10	Семилеткин. / Semiletkin	6А	1988
16.11	Попенко Ю. / Popenko U.	6А	1975
16.12	Ручкин А. / Ruchkin A.	6А	2001
16.13	Беззубкин В. / Bezzubkin V.	5Б/5В	1969
16.14	Ручкин А. / Ruchkin A.	6А	1997
16.15	Мышляев Л. / Myshliaev L.	5Б/5В	1961
16.16	(Самарский) / Samarskii	5Б/5В	1991
16.17	Багаев Б. / Bagaev B.	5Б/5В	1974
16.18	Барбер Г, /Barber G.	5Б/5В	1976
16.19	Amin Moein, Hamed Havaleh – Persian Gulf - Golfe Persique	5A	2014
16.20	Гутник А., Акимов В. / Gutnik A Akimov V.	5Б/5В	2003
16.21	Балезин В. / Balezin V.	5Б/5В	1994
16.22	Павленко Д. (соло) / Pavlenko (solo)	5А	2009
16.23	Андреев Г. / Andreev G.	5А	1959
16.24	Лоу Д. / Low D.	5А	1976
16.25	Агафонов А. / Agafonov. A.	5А	1991

№17, Ak-Too Peak, 4640, Photos N° 17,18,20			
17.1	Гаврилов А. / Gavrilov A.	4Б/4В	1957
17.2	Усманов А. / Usmanov A/	4Б/4В	2013
17.3	Глазунов Е. / Glazunov E.	4Б/4В	2013
17.4	Тарасов В. / Tarasov V.	4Б/4В	1989

№18, Trezubets Peak, 4380, Photos N°18,19,20			
18.1	Прокофьев Д. / Prokofiev D.	4Б/4В	2013

№19, Teke-Tor Peak, Photo N°20,21,26			
19.1	(Чешский) / Chekhien	4А	1986
19.2	Розин Ю. / Rozin U.	3Б/3В	?
19.3	СВ ребро / NE Ridge / Arête Nord-Est	3Б/3В	?
19.4	Мухамедова Е. / Mukhamediva E.	3А	1957

№20, Ratsek Peak, 3980, Photos N°22,23			
20.1	Балыкин В. / Balykin V.	2Б/2В	1987
20.2	Темерев И. / Temerev I.	2А	2006
20.3	Акимов В. (с Ю) / Akimov V. from S / Face Sud	2А	2012
20.4	Акимов В. (с З) / Akimov V. from W / Face Ouest	3А	2013
20.5	Акимов В. (с В) / Akimov V. from E / Face Est	2Б/2В	2013

№21, Boks Peak, 4200, Photos N°24,25,26			
21.1	Калитина А. / Kalitina A.	2А	1959
21.2	ЮВ кулуару/ SE culuar / Couloir SE	1Б/1В	?
21.3	Кф В ст/ Buttress of E wall / Contrefort en Face Est	3Б/3В	?
21.4	Пугачев И. Кф В ст / Pugachev I. from North Wall / par la Face Nord	4Б/4В	?
21.5	Павленко Д. / Pavlenko D.	5Б/5В	?
21.6	Югославский / Jugoslavian team / Equipe yougoslave	5А	1987
21.7	Михайлов М. / Mihailov M.	5Б/5В	1997
21.8	Корейский по Ц С стены / Korean team on Little North Wall / Equipe coréenne par la petite face Nord	5Б/5В	2014
21.9	Селиверстов С. / Seliverstov S.	5Б/5В	2013
21.10	Селиверстов С. / Seliverstov S.	5Б/5В	2013
21.11	Дашкевич А / Dashkevich A.	5Аз	2013
21.12	Селиверстов С. / Seliverstov S.	4Б/4В	2012
21.13	Айтбаев А. / Aitbaev A.	4А	1956
21.14	Табачиков / Tabachikov	4Б/4В	1990

№22, Pero Peak, 4049, Photo N°27			
22.1	Акимов В. / Akimov V.	5Б/5В	2014

N°23, Traverses of Ak-Say summits			
23.1	Игнатьев Н. Учитель-Байчичикей / Ignatiev N. Uchitel – Baichichikey	2Б/2В	1956
23.2	Байчичикей-Учитель / Baichichikey - Uchitel	2Б/2В	?
23.3	Шубин А. Скрябина-Семенова Т-Ш / Shubin A. Skriabina – Semiomova TS	4Б/4В	1955
23.4	Семенова- Скрябина / Semionova TS – Skriabina	4А	1956
23.5	Байлян-Баши – Теке-Тор / Bailin-Bashi – Teke-Tor	5Б/5В	?
23.6	Андреев Р. Теке-Тор – Байлян-Баши / Andreev R. Teke-Tor -Bailian-Bashi	5Б/5В	?
23.7	Андреев Р. Двурогая- Скрябина / Andreev R. Dvurogaia - Skriabina	5Б/5В	1961
23.8	Скрябина-Двурогая / Skriabina - Dvurogaia	5Б/5В	?
23.9	Шкодин В. Св.Кореи- Космонавтов / Shkodin V. Sv.Korea - Kosmonavtov	5Б/5В	1964
23.10	Житенев Ф Скрябина – Лермонтова / Zhitenev F. Skriabina - Lermontova	5Б/5В	1967
23.11	Комсомолец-Пионер / Komsomolets - Pioner	2А	
23.12	Пионер – Комсомолец / Pioner - Komsomolets	2А	
23.13	Комсомолец – Павлика Морозова / Komsomolets - Pavlika Morozova	2А	
23.14	Павлика Морозова – Комсомолец / Pavlika Morozova - Komsomolets	2А	

Pictures (Komissarov V.A)

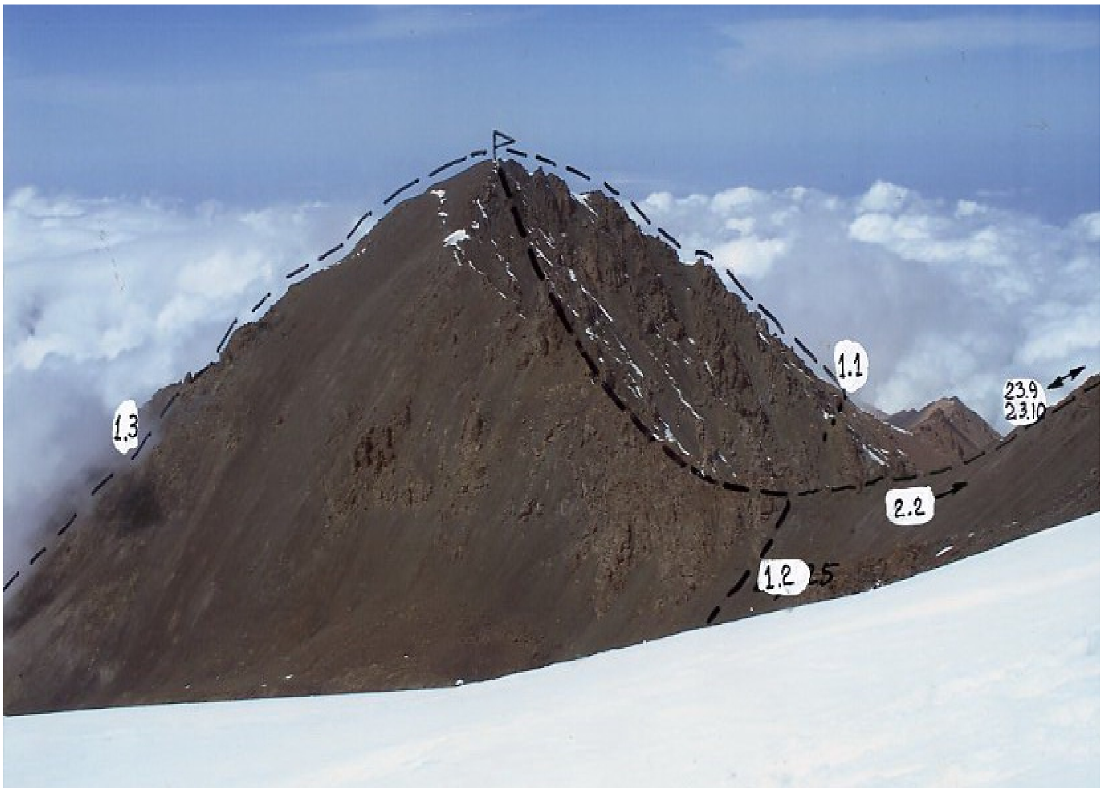

1.3
1.1
23.9
2.3.10
2.2
1.2
5

Photo n°01 Pioneer Peak, 4050 m, view from S

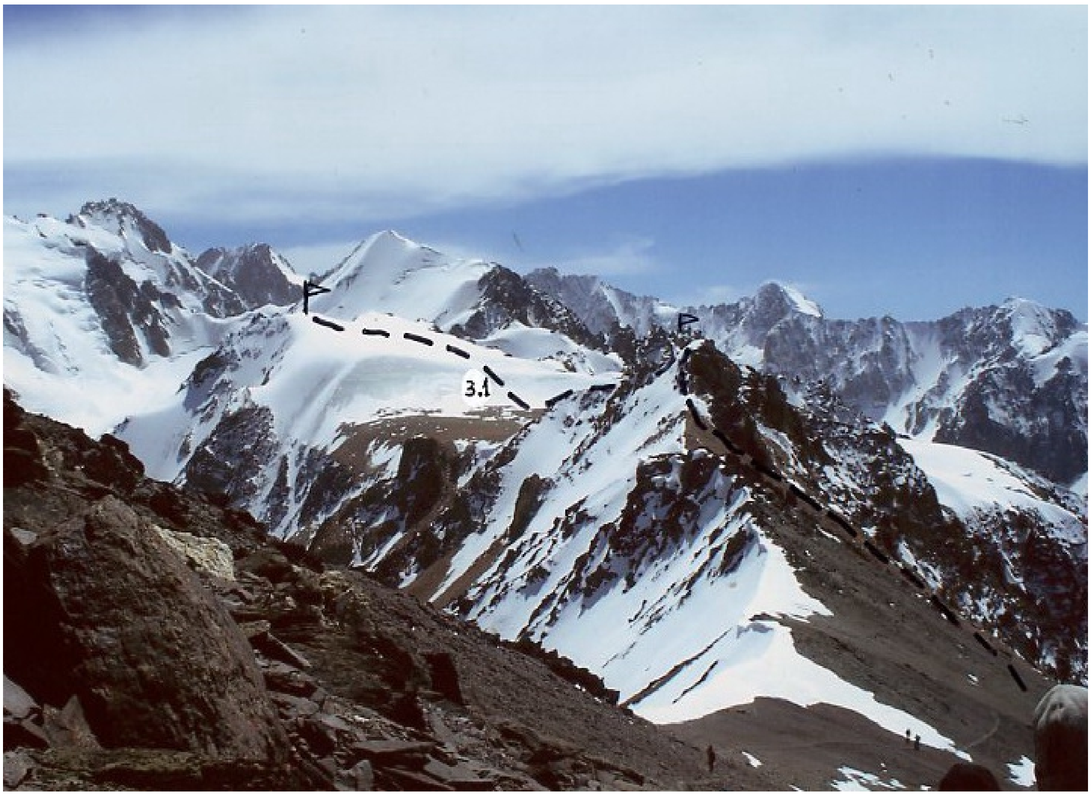


Photo n°02 Pavlika Morozova Peak, 4200m

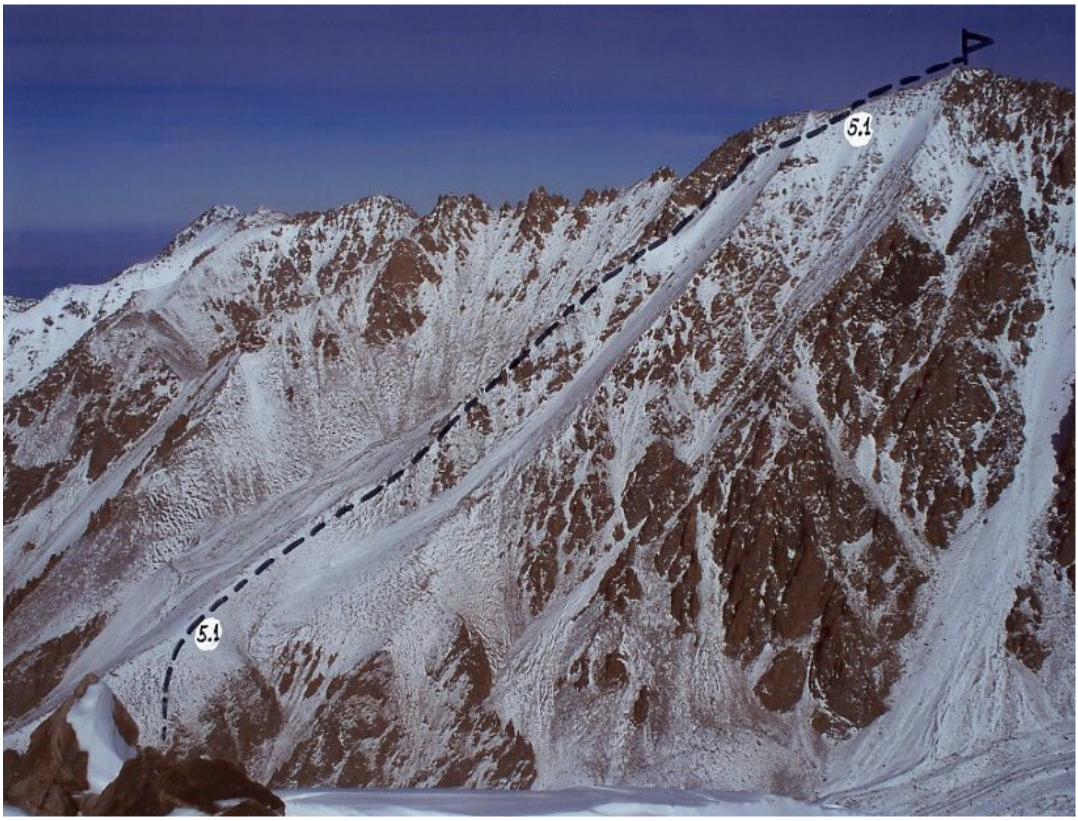


Photo n°03 Uchitel Peak, 4527m, SW side

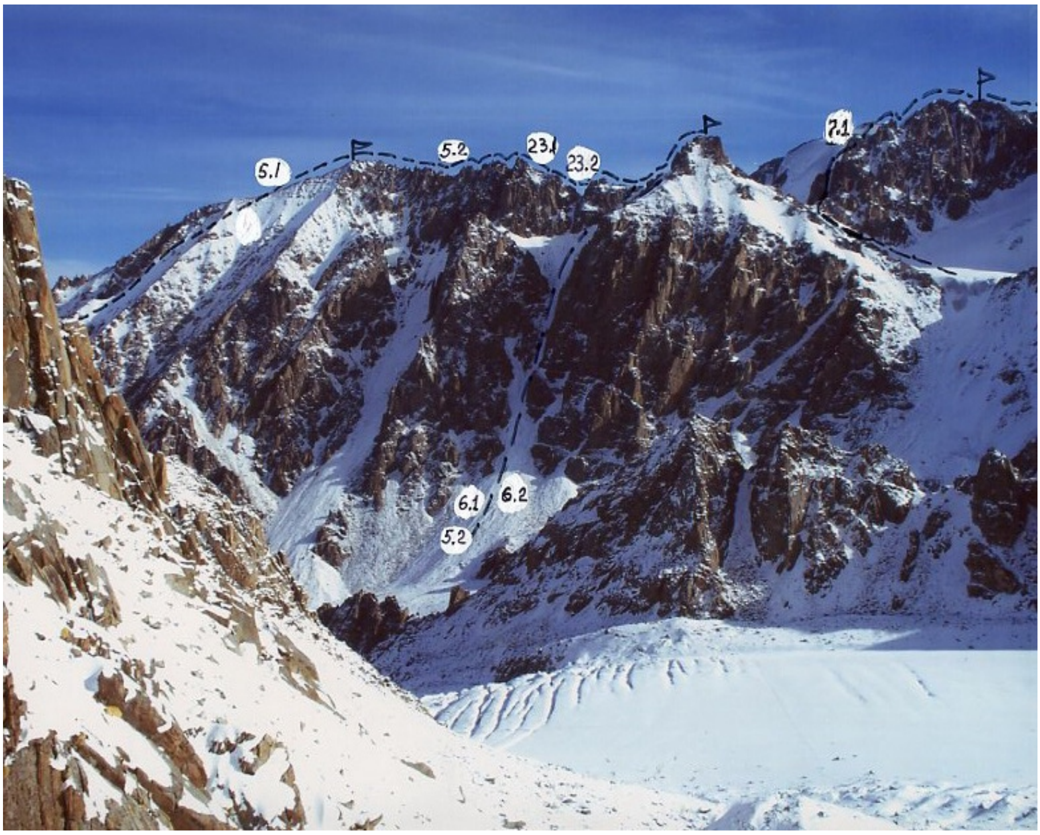

5.1
5.2
23.1
23.2
7.1
6.1
6.2
5.2

Photo n°04 Uchitel, Baichichikey, Skriabina Peaks

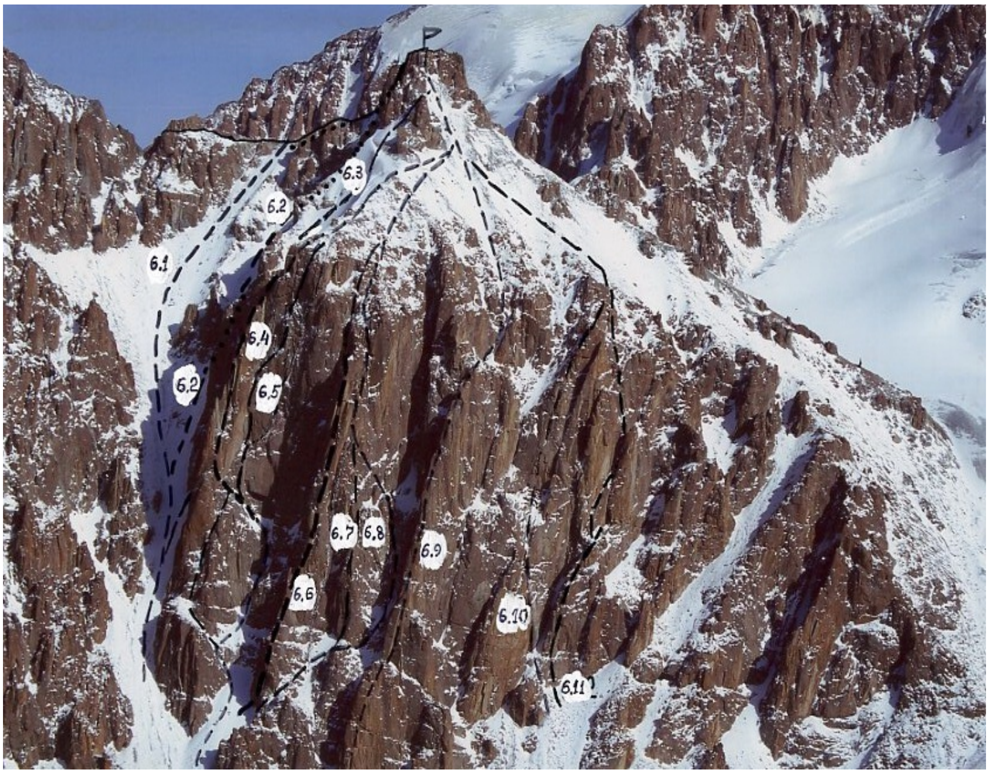

6.3
6.2
6.1
6.4
6.2
6.5
6.7
6.8
6.9
6.6
6.10
6.11

Photo n°05 - Baichichikey Peak

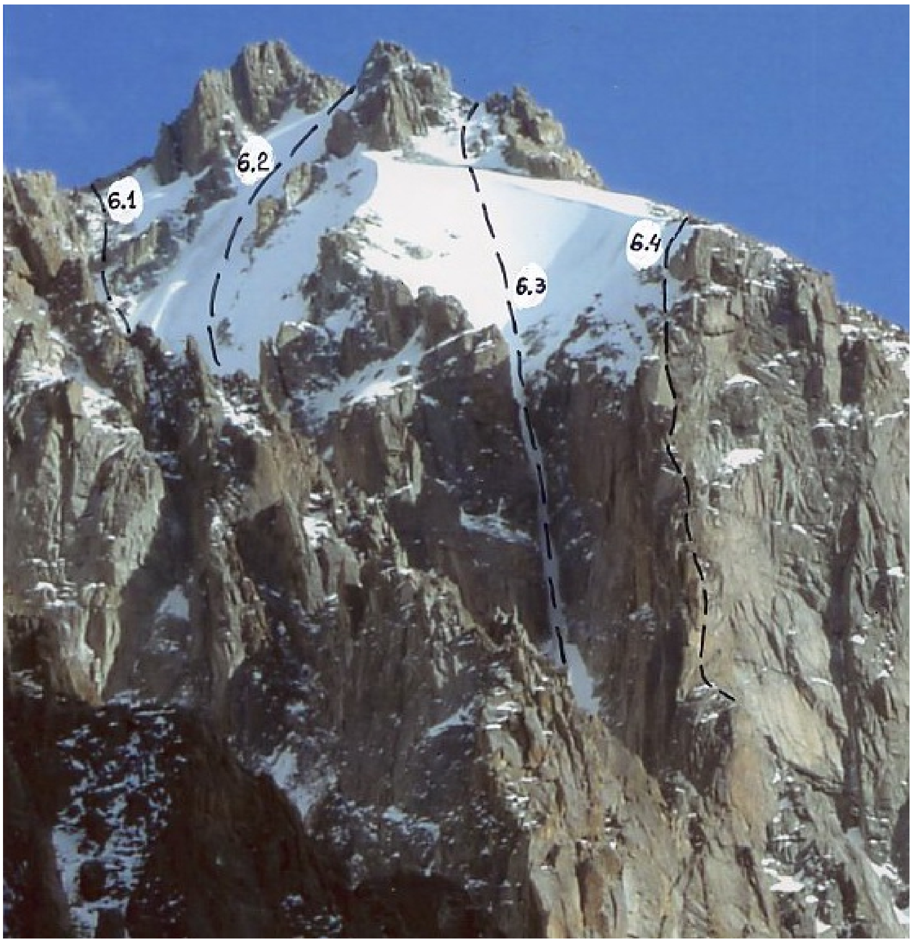


Photo n°06 - Baichichikey Peak

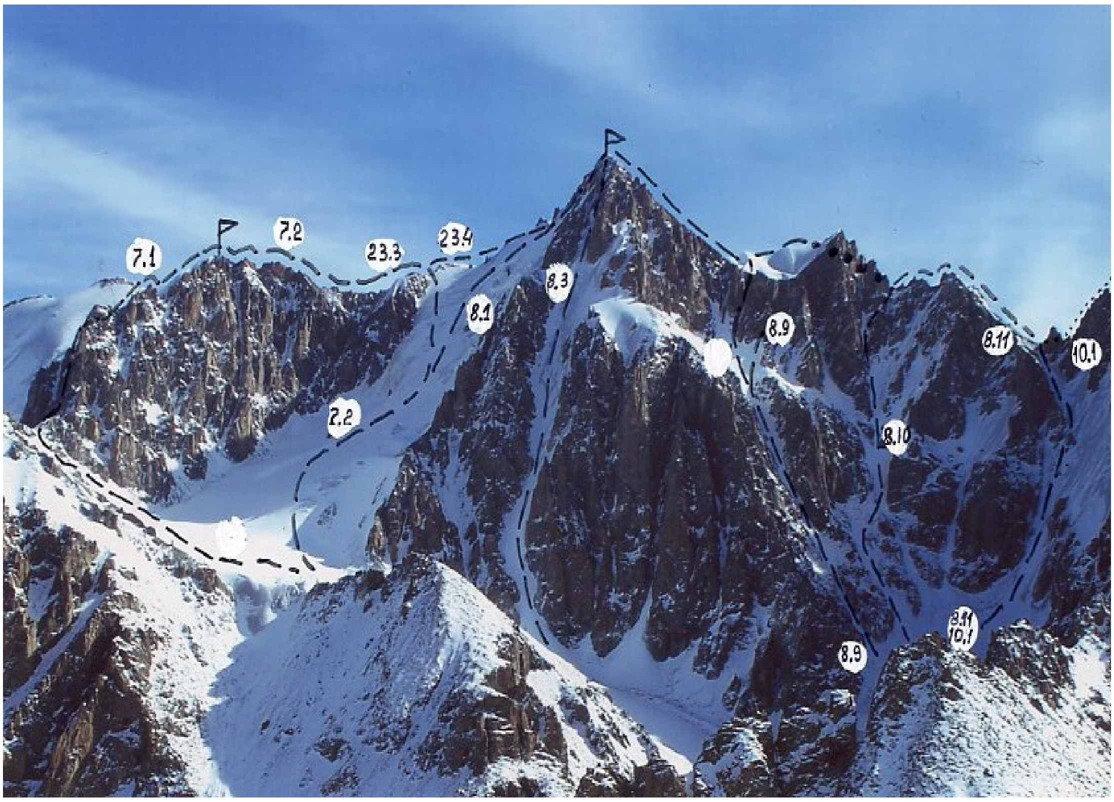

7.1
7.2
23.3
23.4
8.3
8.1
8.9
8.11
10.1
7.2
8.10
8.11
10.1
8.9

Photo n°07 Skriabina and Semionova-Tienshanskogo Peaks

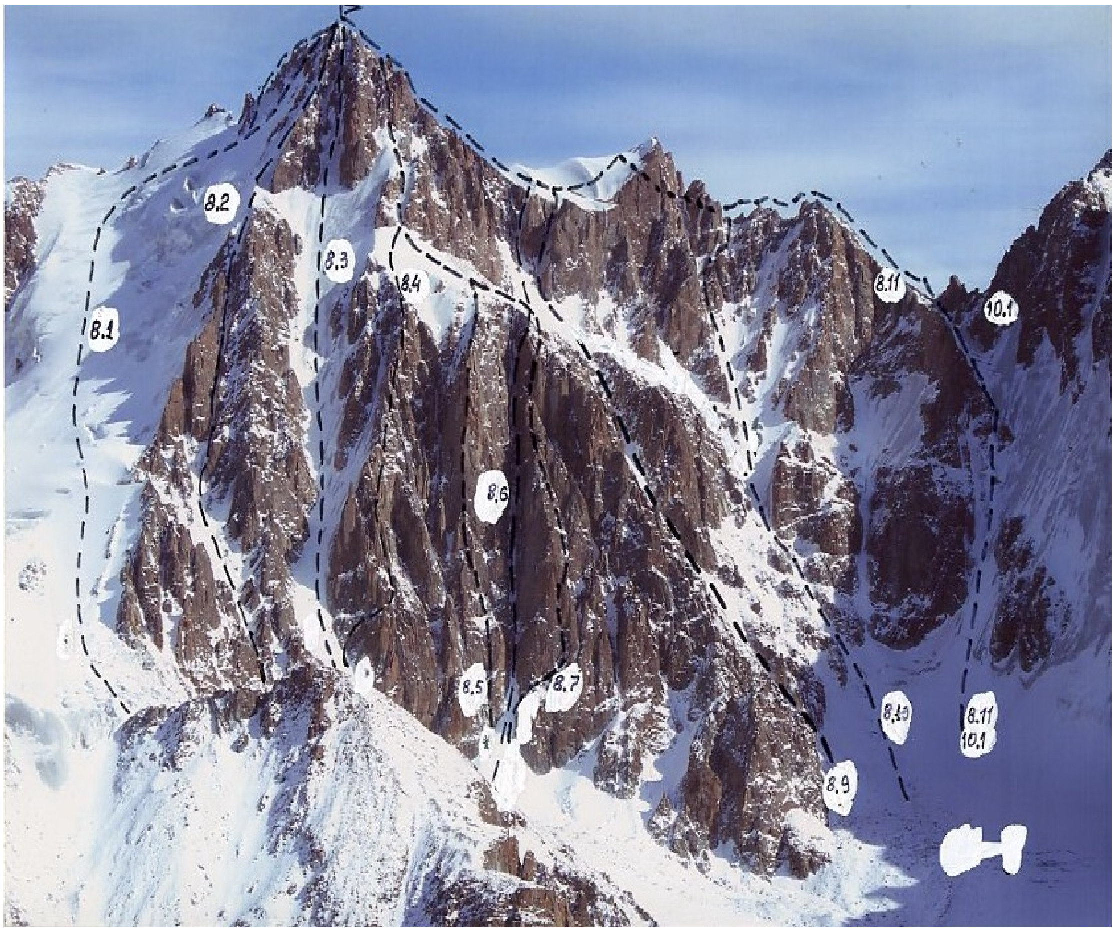

8.2
8.3
8.4
8.1
8.11
10.1
8.6
8.5
8.7
8.10
8.11
10.1
8.9

Photo n°08 Semionova Tian-Shanskogo Peak

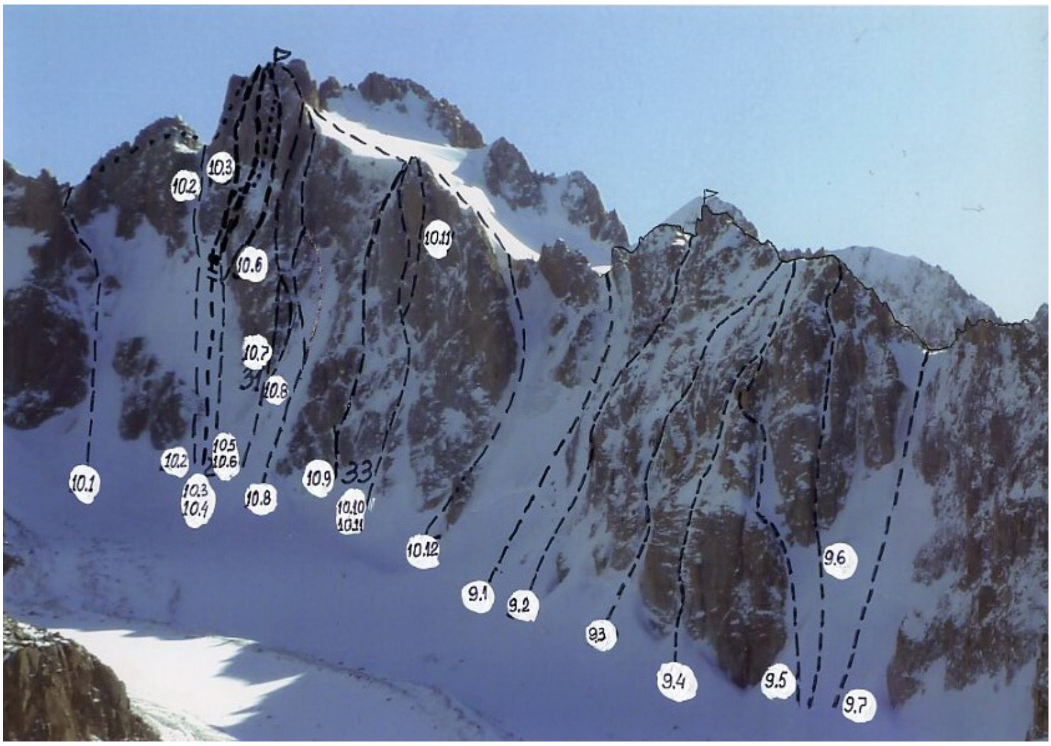

10.2
10.3
10.6
10.11
10.7
31
10.8
10.5
10.6
10.1
10.2
10.3
10.4
10.8
10.9
33
10.10
10.11
10.12
9.1
9.2
9.3
9.4
9.5
9.6
9.7

Photo n°09 Korona and West-Korona Peaks

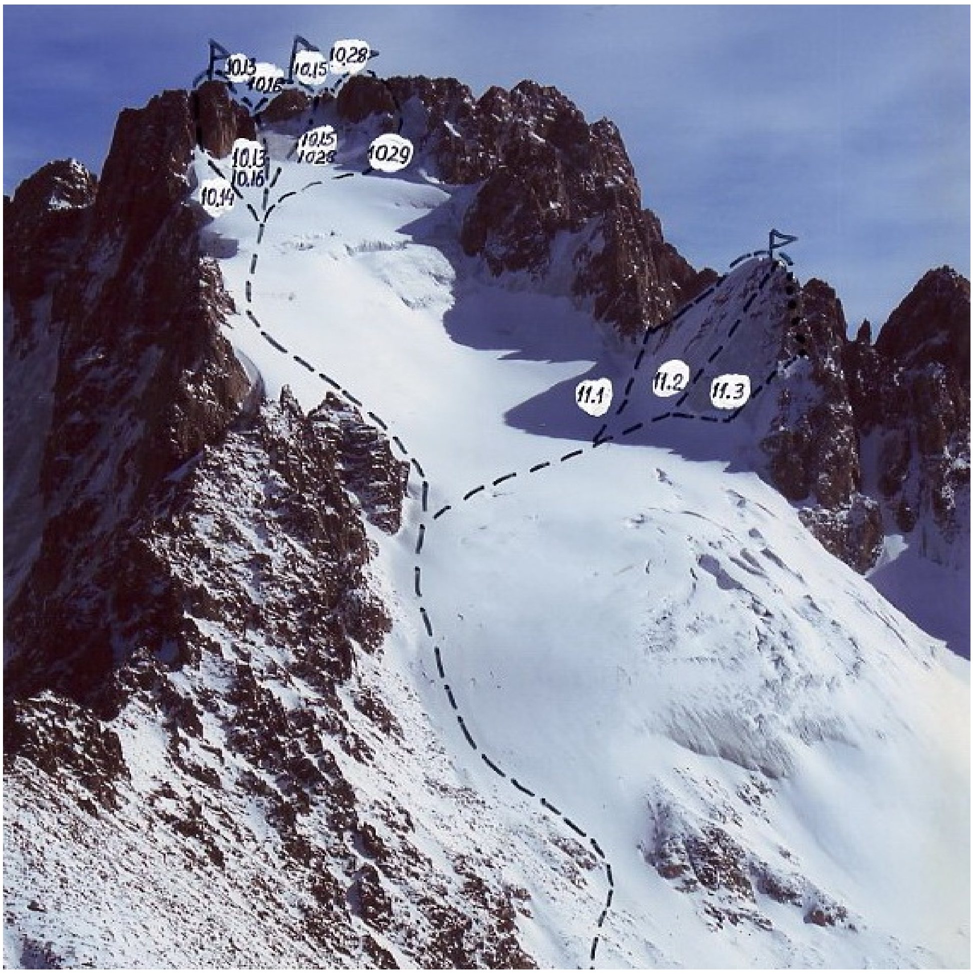

10.13
10.16
10.15
10.28
10.15
10.28
10.29
10.13
10.16
10.14
11.1
11.2
11.3

Photo n°10 Korona, Izyskatel Peaks and Korona Glacier from W

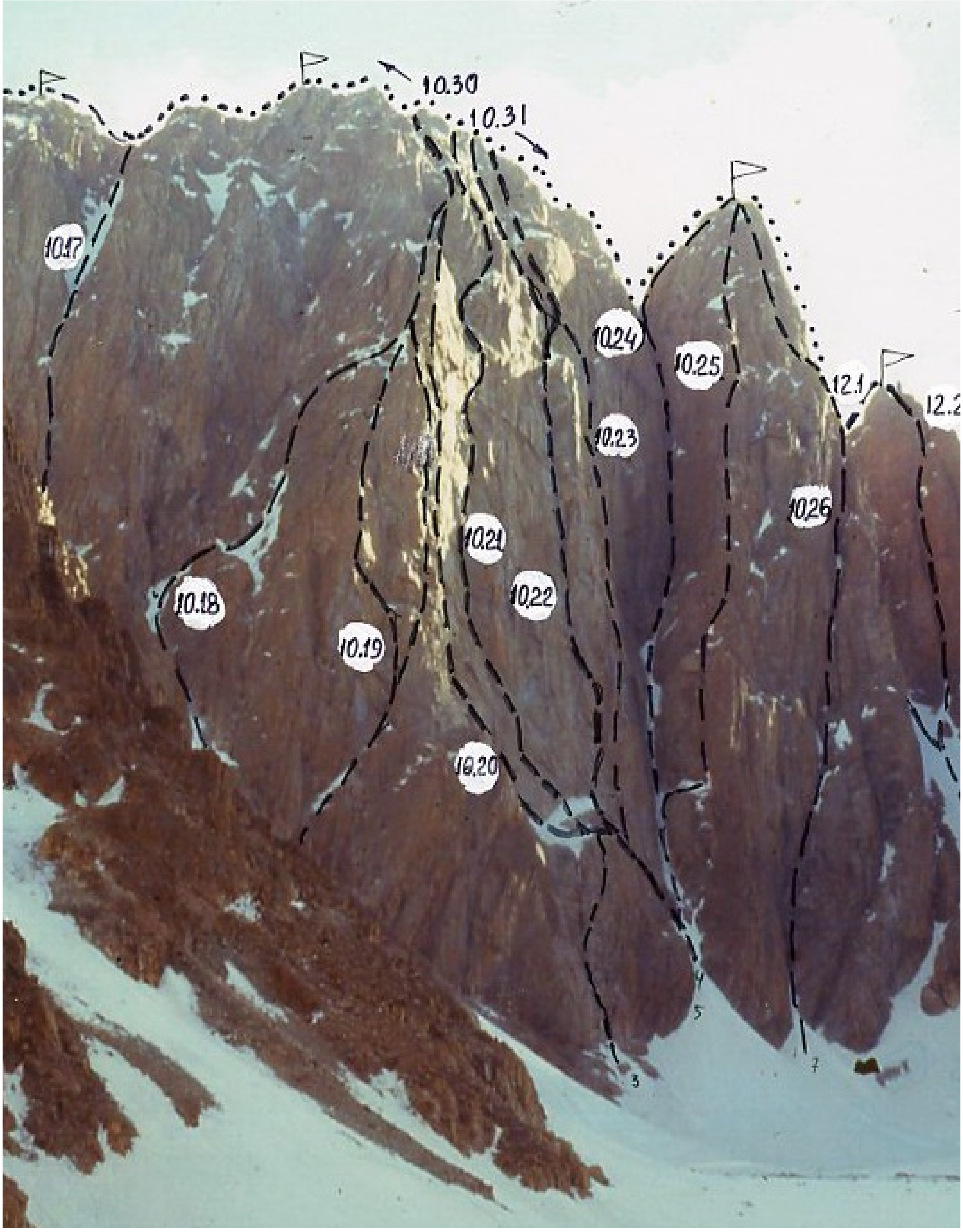

10.30
10.31
10.17
10.24
10.25
12.1
12.2
10.23
10.26
10.21
10.22
10.18
10.19
10.20
4
5
3
7

Photo n°11 Korona (buttresses 4,5 and 6) and Dvurogaia Peaks

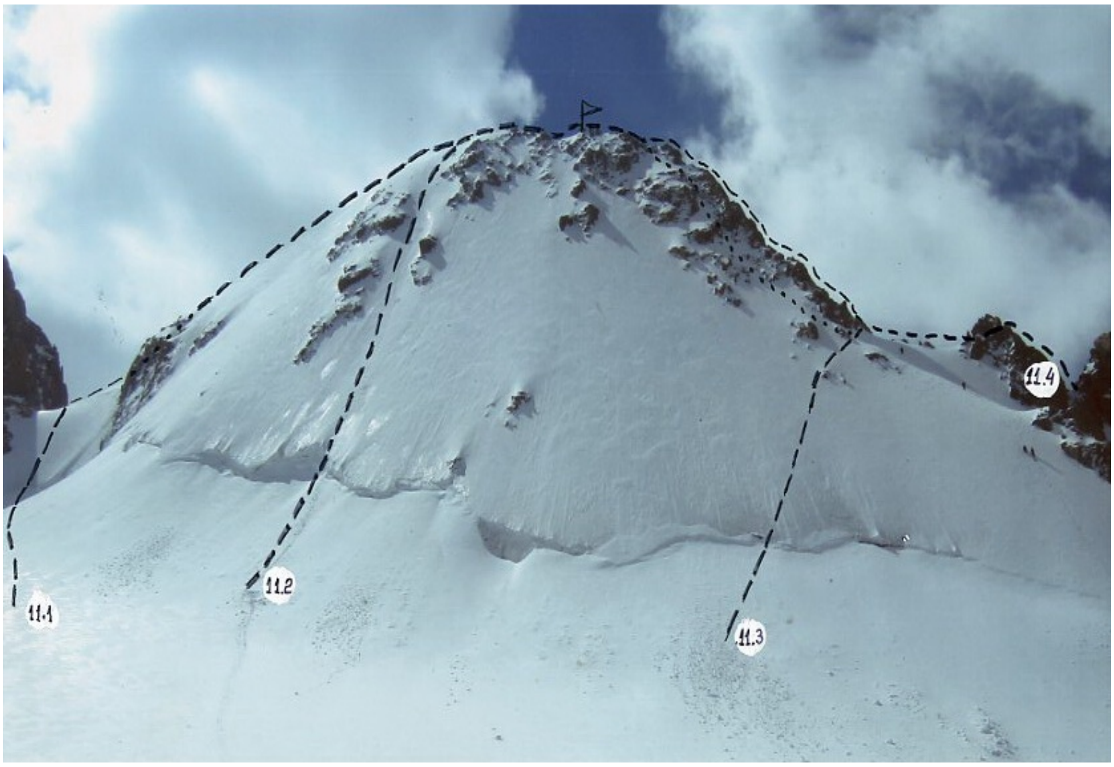

11.1
11.2
11.3
11.4

Photo n°12 - Izyskatel Peak

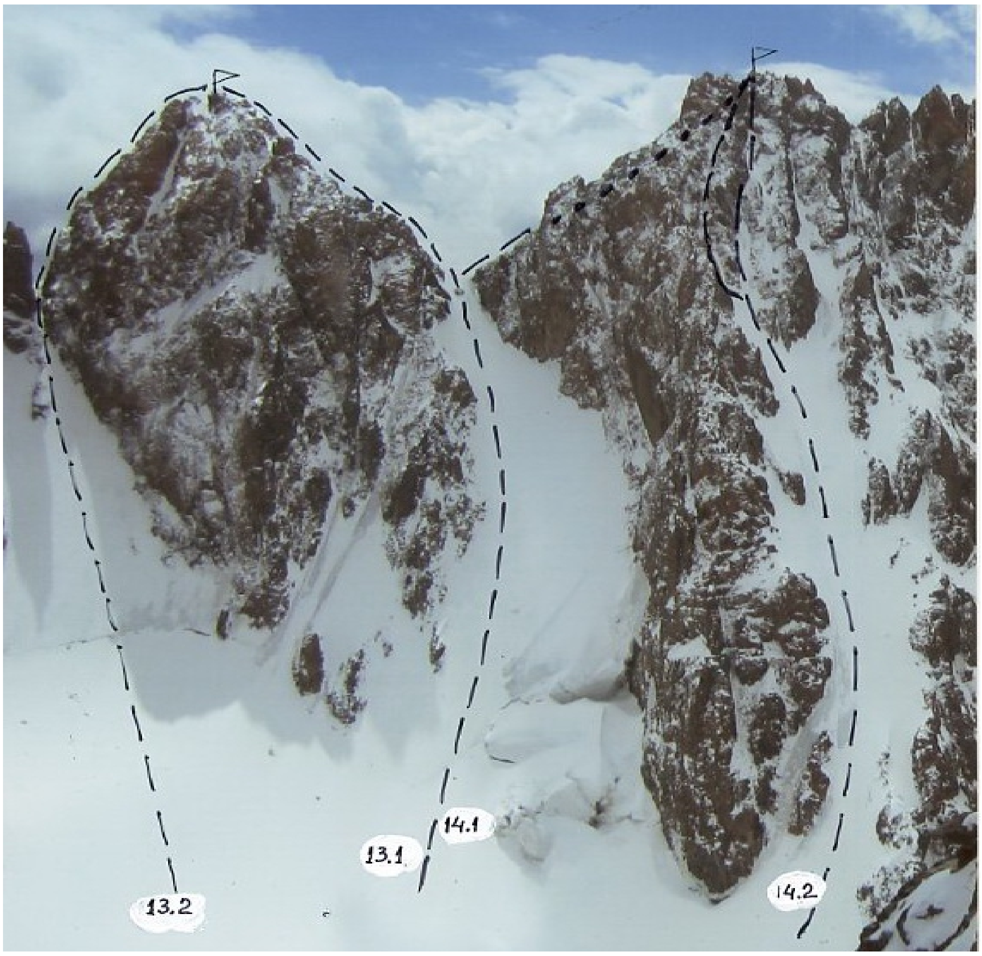

13.2
13.1
14.1
14.2

Photo n°13 Kosmonavtov (left) and Bailian-Bashi (1-st batris) Peaks

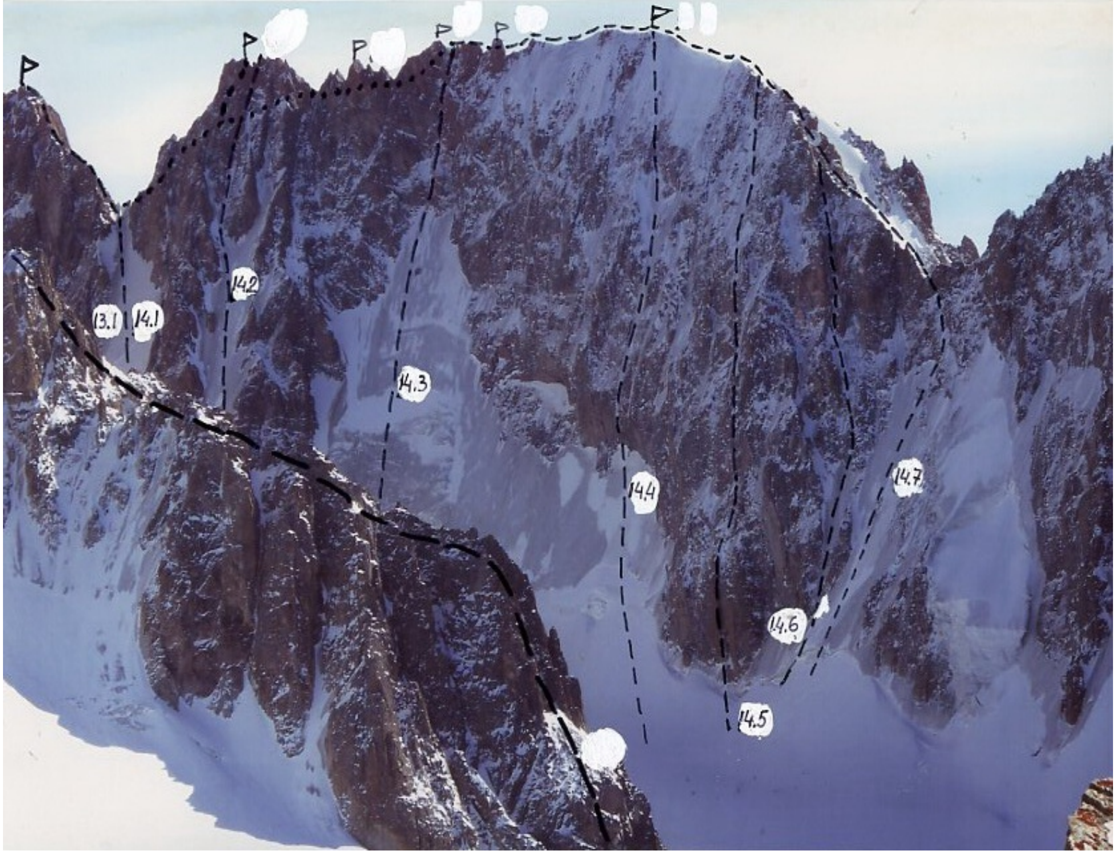

13.1
14.1
14.2
14.3
14.4
14.7
14.6
14.5

Photo n°14 Kosmonavtov (left) and Bailian-Bashi, SW ridge of Izyskatel Peak in front

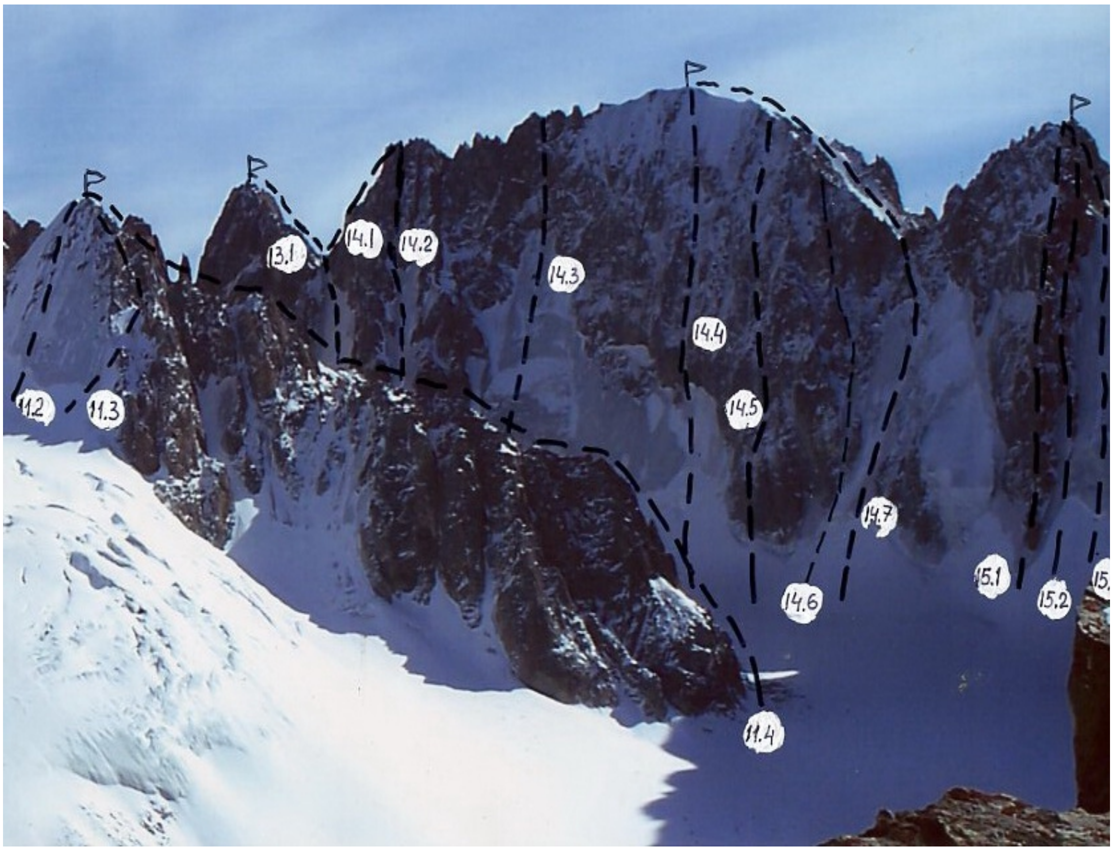

13.1
14.1
14.2
14.3
14.4
11.2
11.3
14.5
14.7
14.6
15.1
15.2
15.
11.4

Photo n°15 Izyskatel, Kosmonavtov, Bailian-Bashi and Simaghin Peaks from left to right.

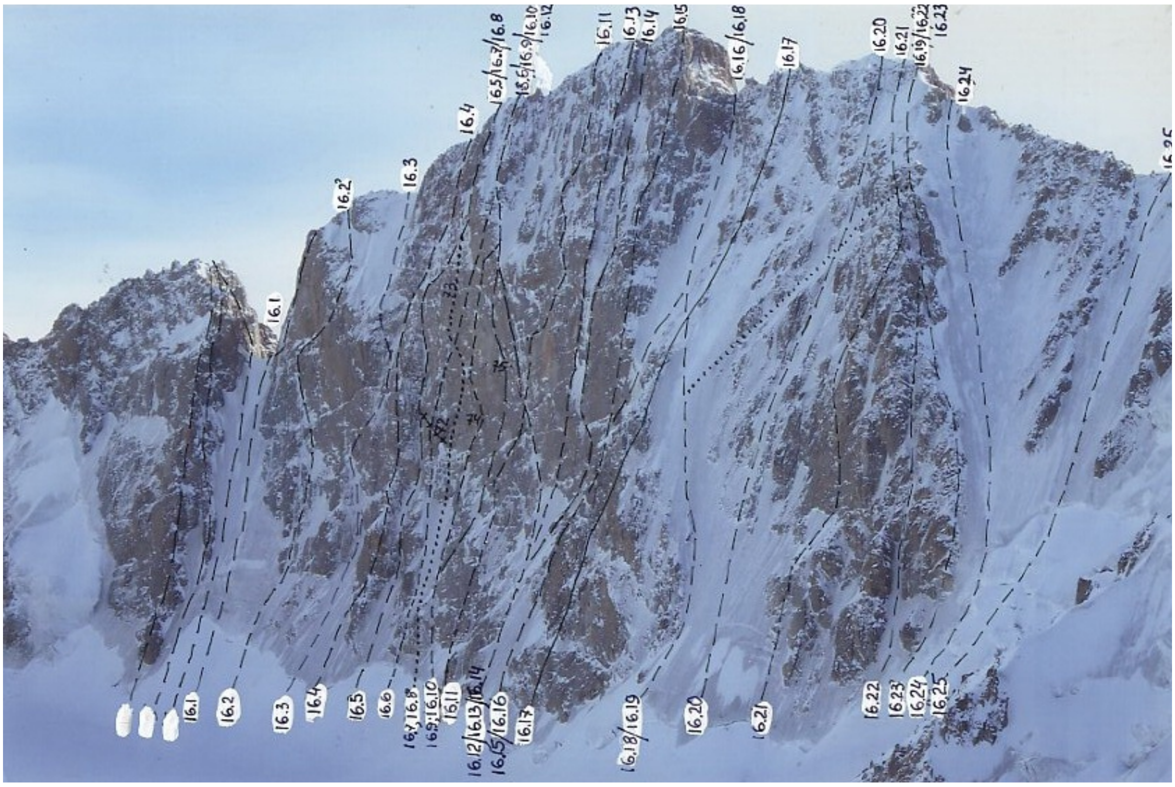

16.5/16.7/16.8
16.6/16.9/16.10
16.12
16.11
16.13
16.14
16.15
16.16/16.18
16.17
16.20
16.21
16.19/16.22
16.23
16.24
16.25
16.4
16.3
16.2
16.1
16.1
16.2
16.3
16.4
16.5
16.6
16.7/16.8
16.9/16.10
16.11
16.12/16.13/16.14
16.15/16.16
16.17
16.18/16.19
16.20
16.21
16.22
16.23
16.24
16.25

Photo n°16 Simaghin and Free Korea Peaks

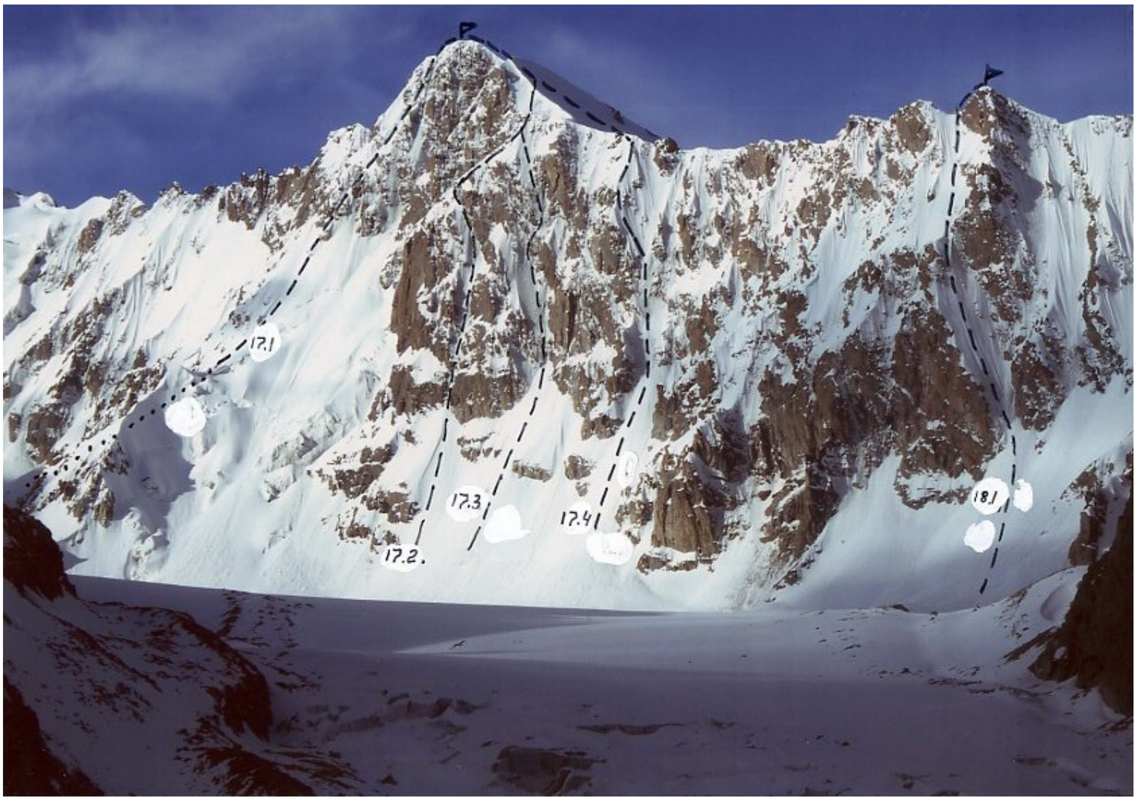

17.1
17.2.
17.3
17.4
18.1

Photo n°17 -Ak-Too Peak

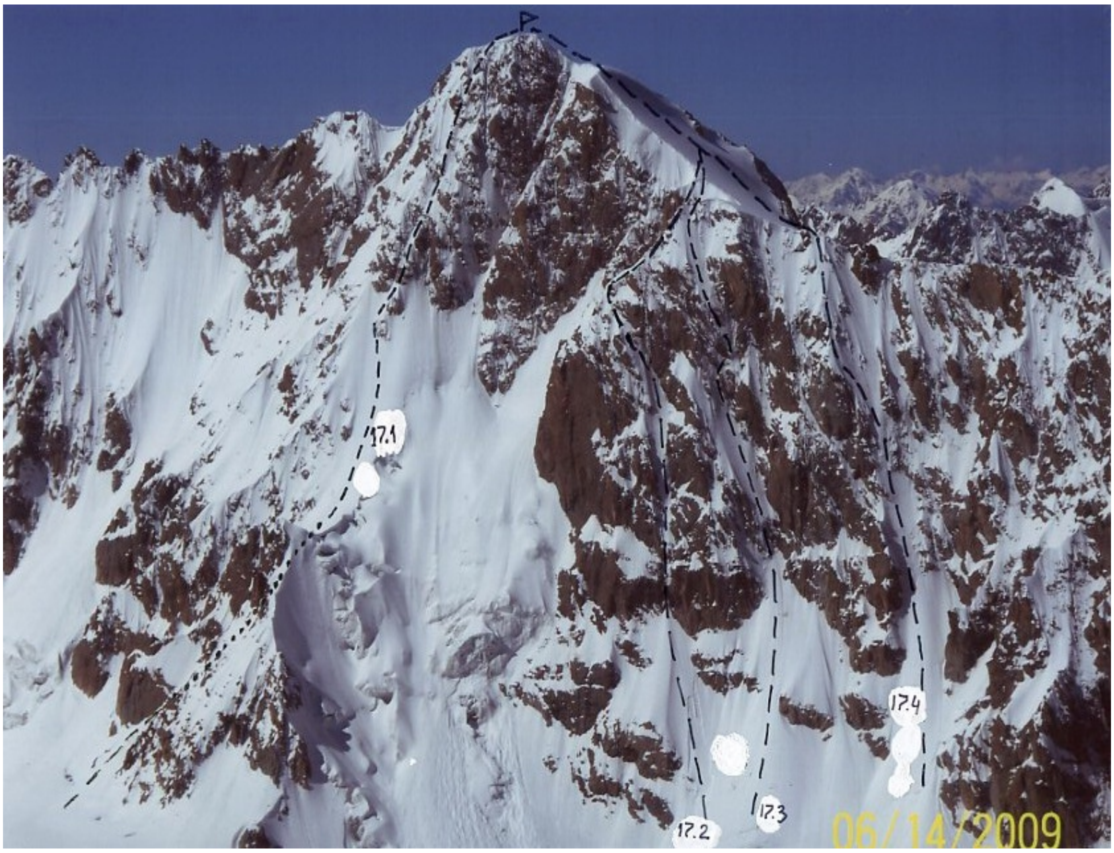

17.1
17.2
17.3
17.4
06/14/2009

Photo n°18 Ak-Too and Trezubets (right) Peaks

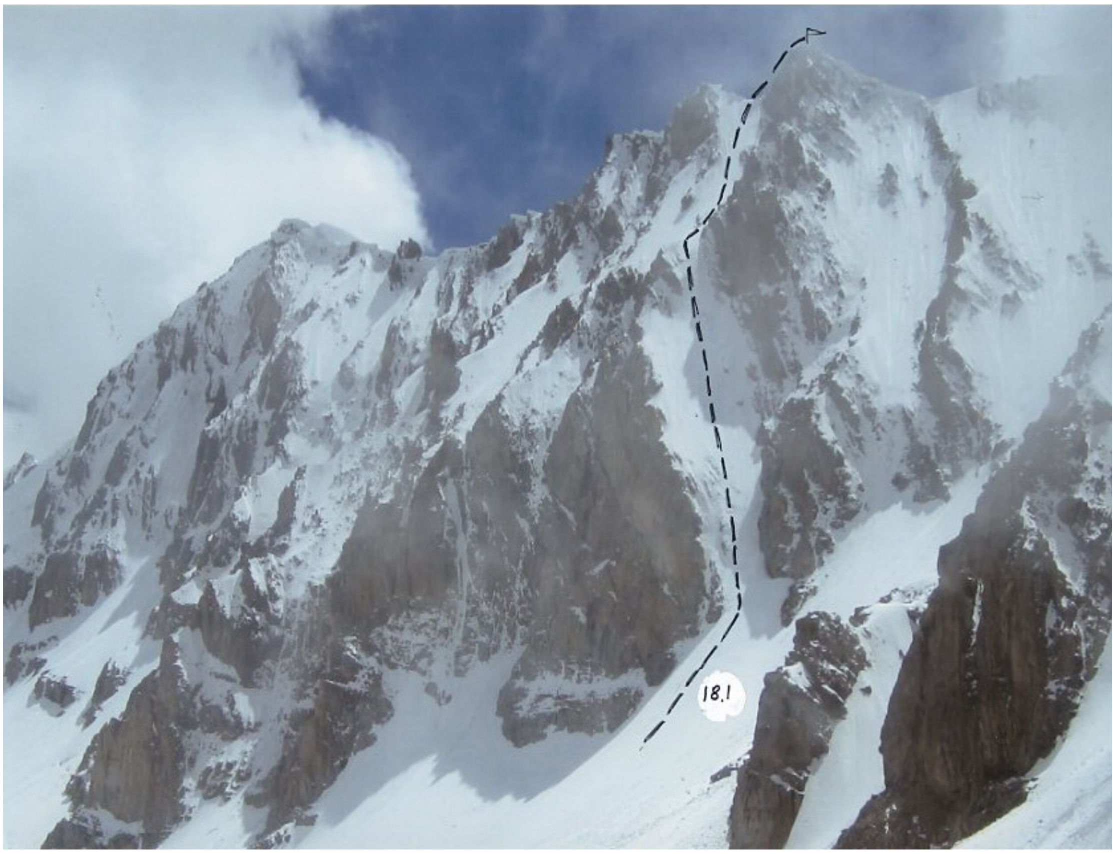


Photo n°19 - Trezubets Peak

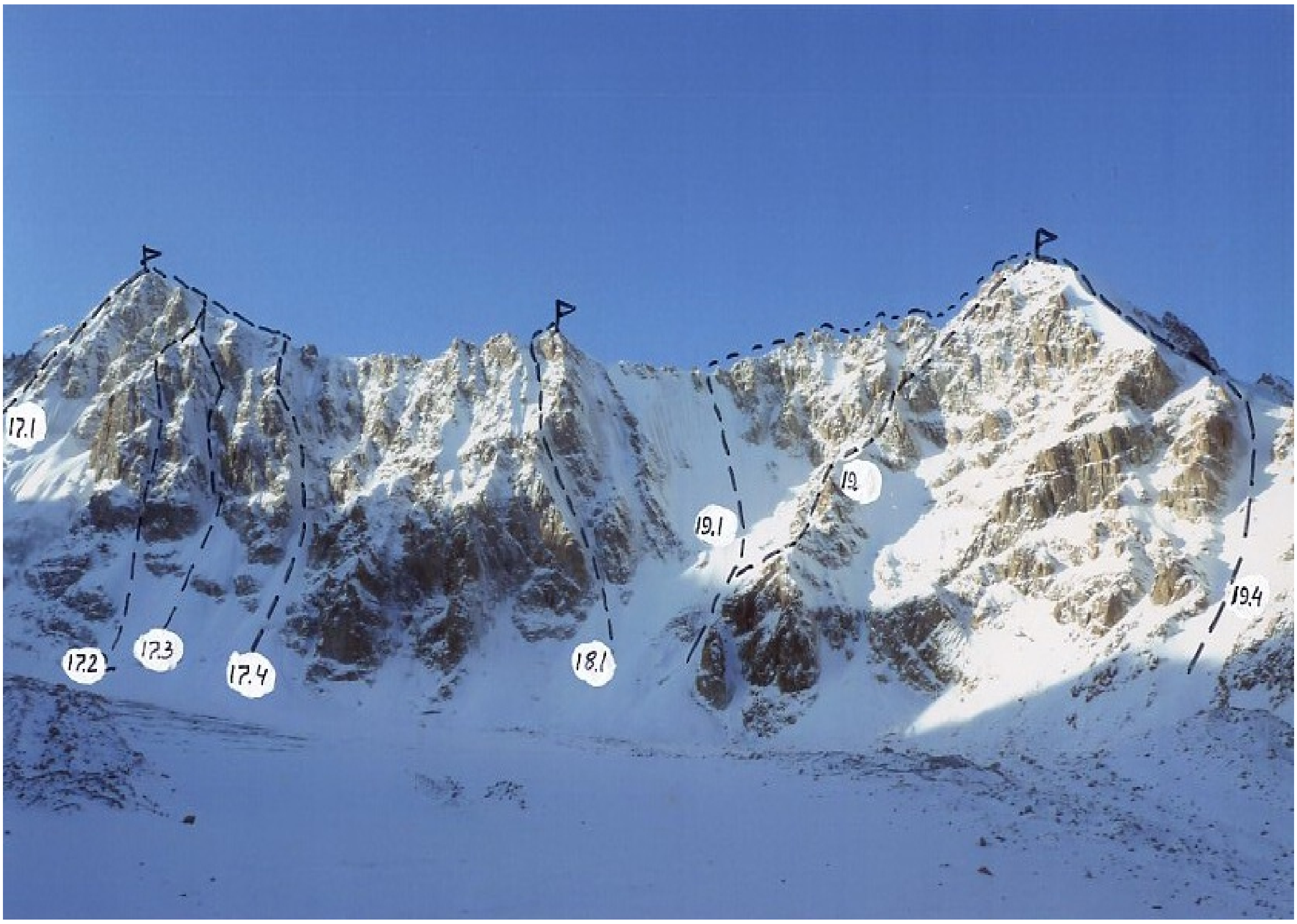

17.1
17.2
17.3
17.4
18.1
19.1
19.
19.4

Photo n°20 Ak-Too, Trezubets and Teke-Tor Peaks from left to right.

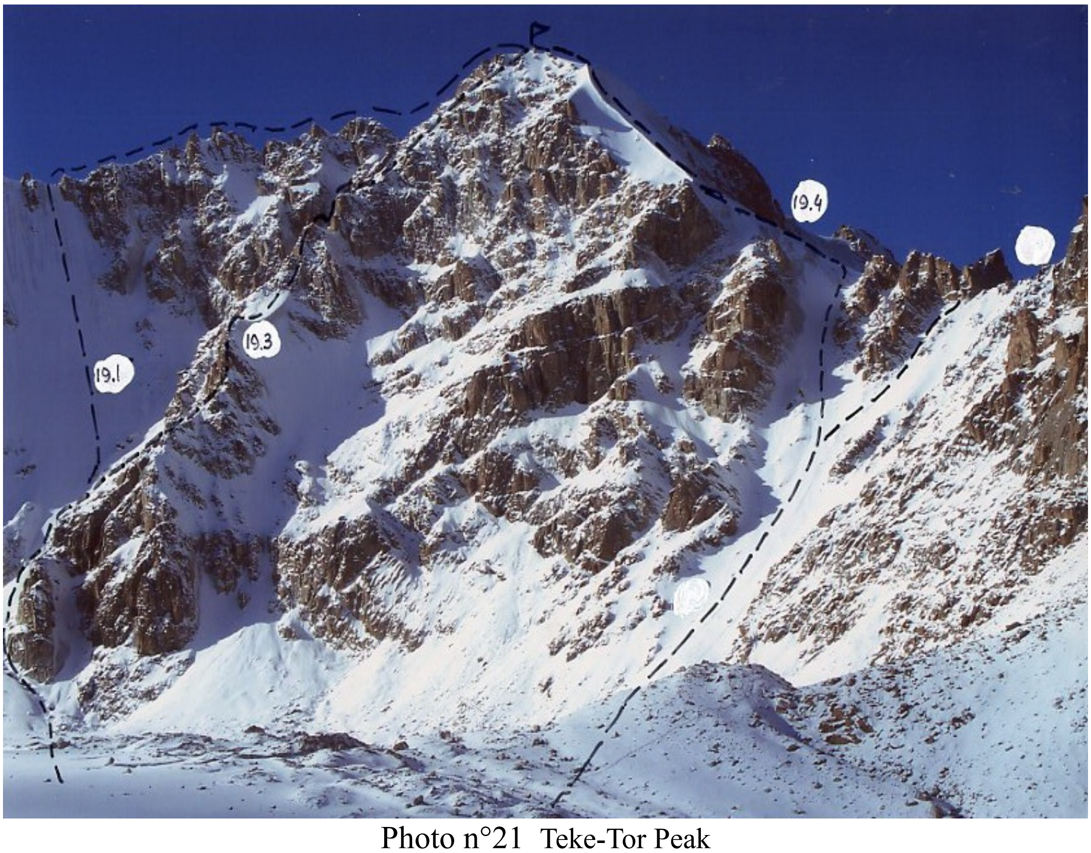


Photo n°21 Teke-Tor Peak

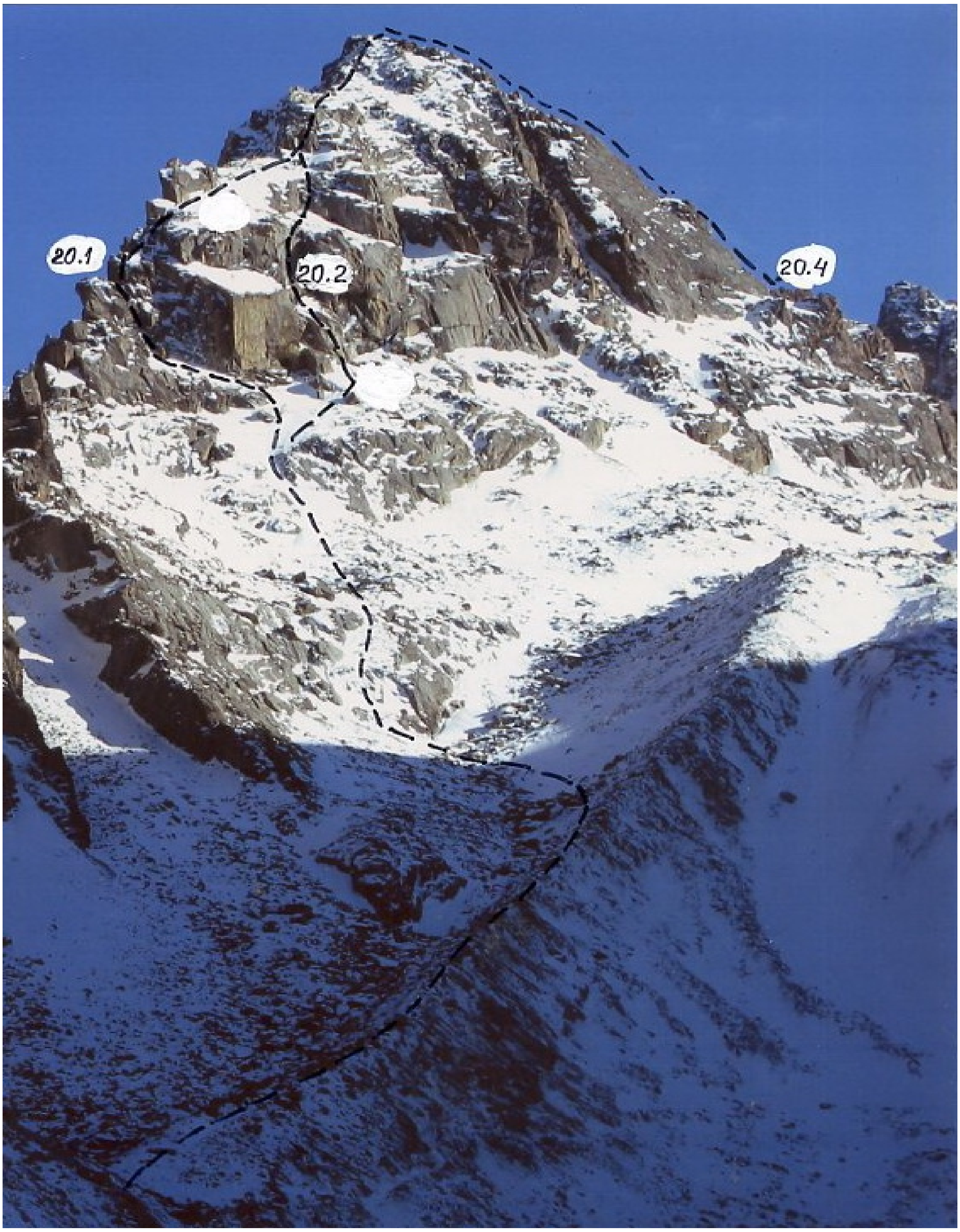


Photo n°22 Ratsek Peak from W

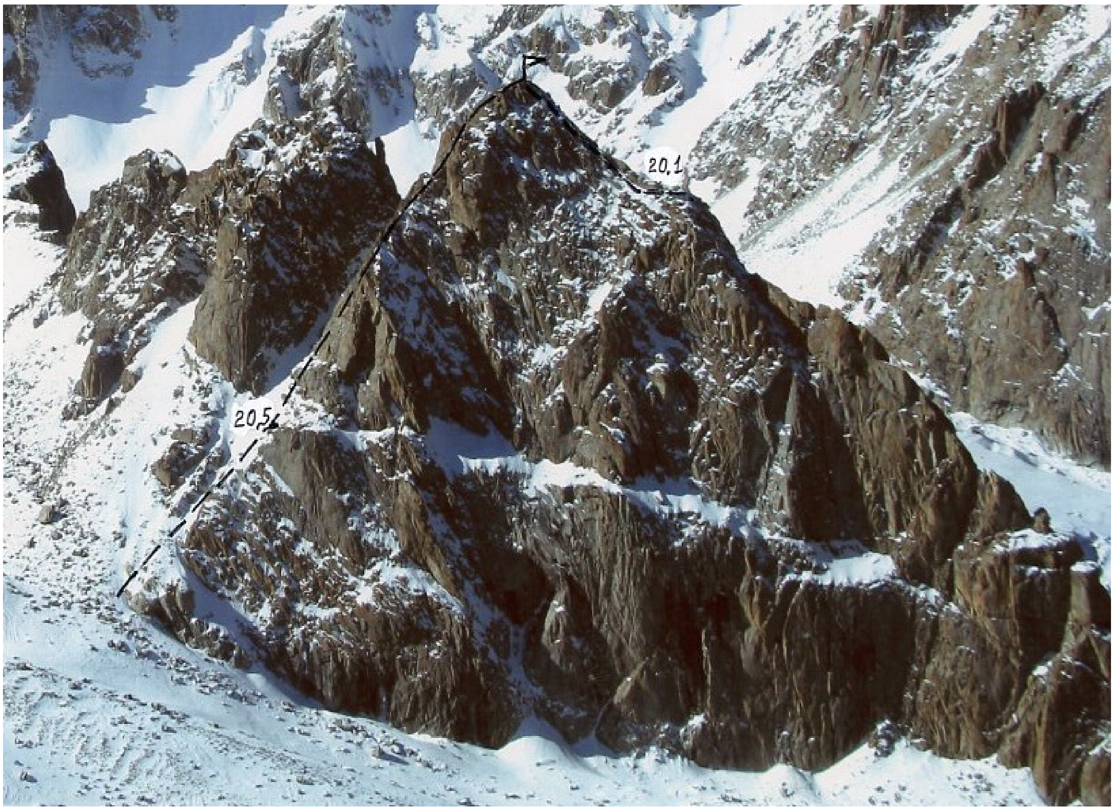


Photo n°23 - Ratsek Peak from NE

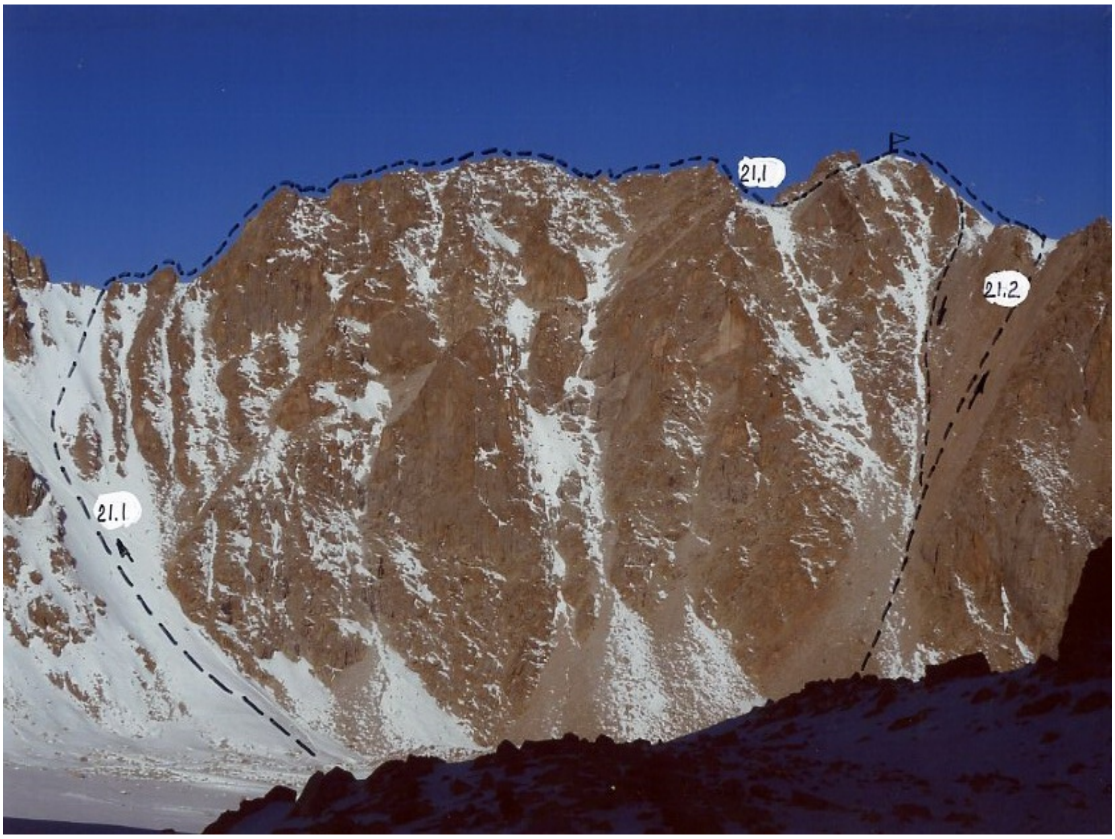


Photo n°24 - Boks Peak from E

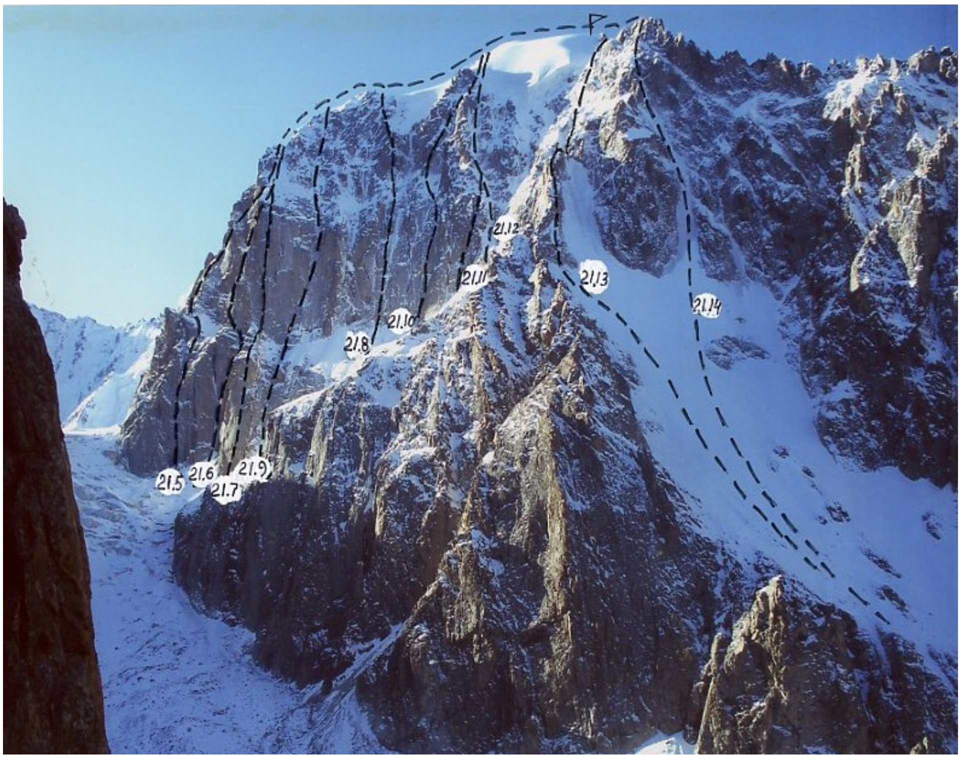

21.12
21.11
21.13
21.14
21.10
21.8
21.5
21.6
21.7
21.9

Photo n°25 - Boks Peak from N

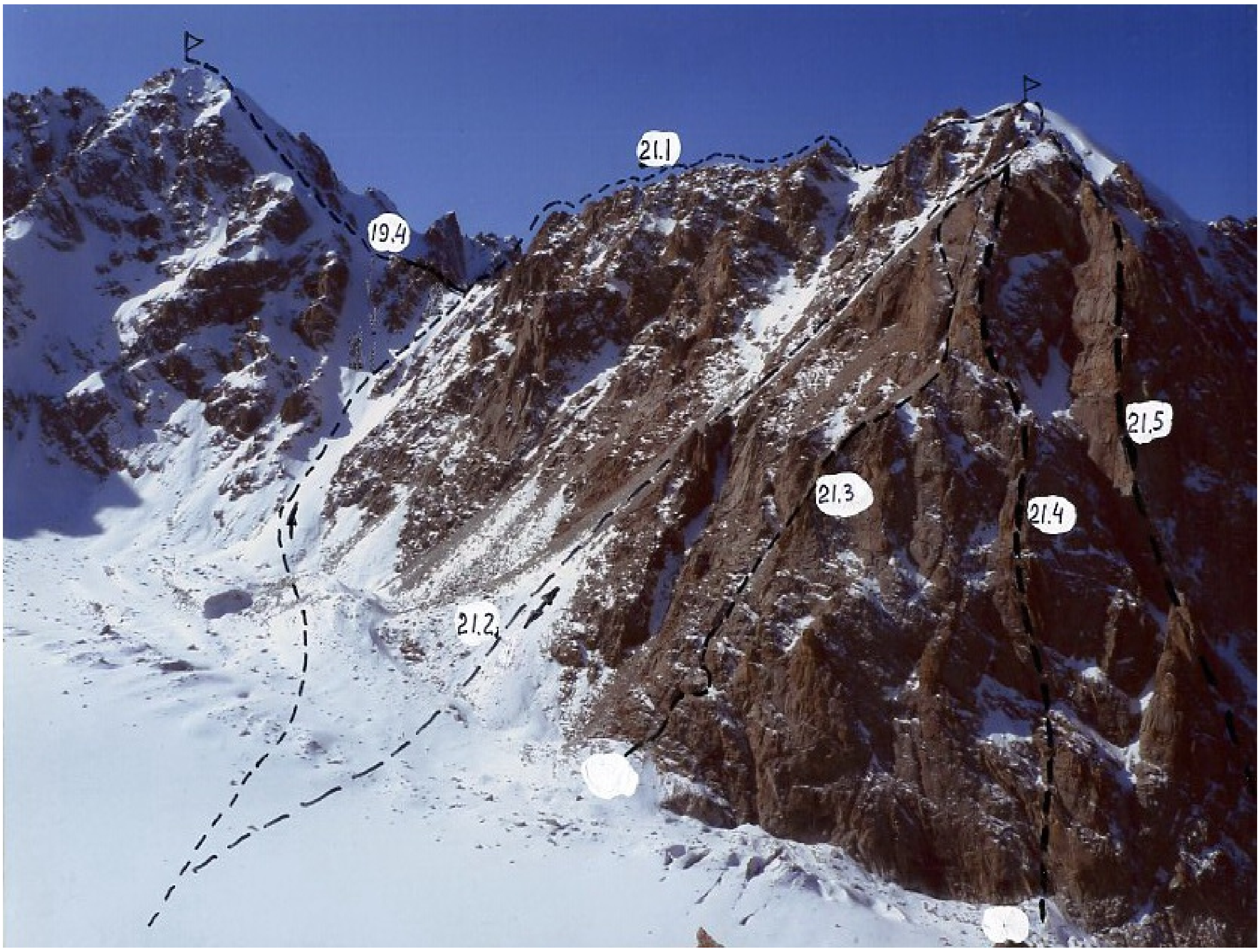

21.1
19.4
21.5
21.3
21.4
21.2

Photo n°26 – Teke-Tor (left) and Boks Peaks

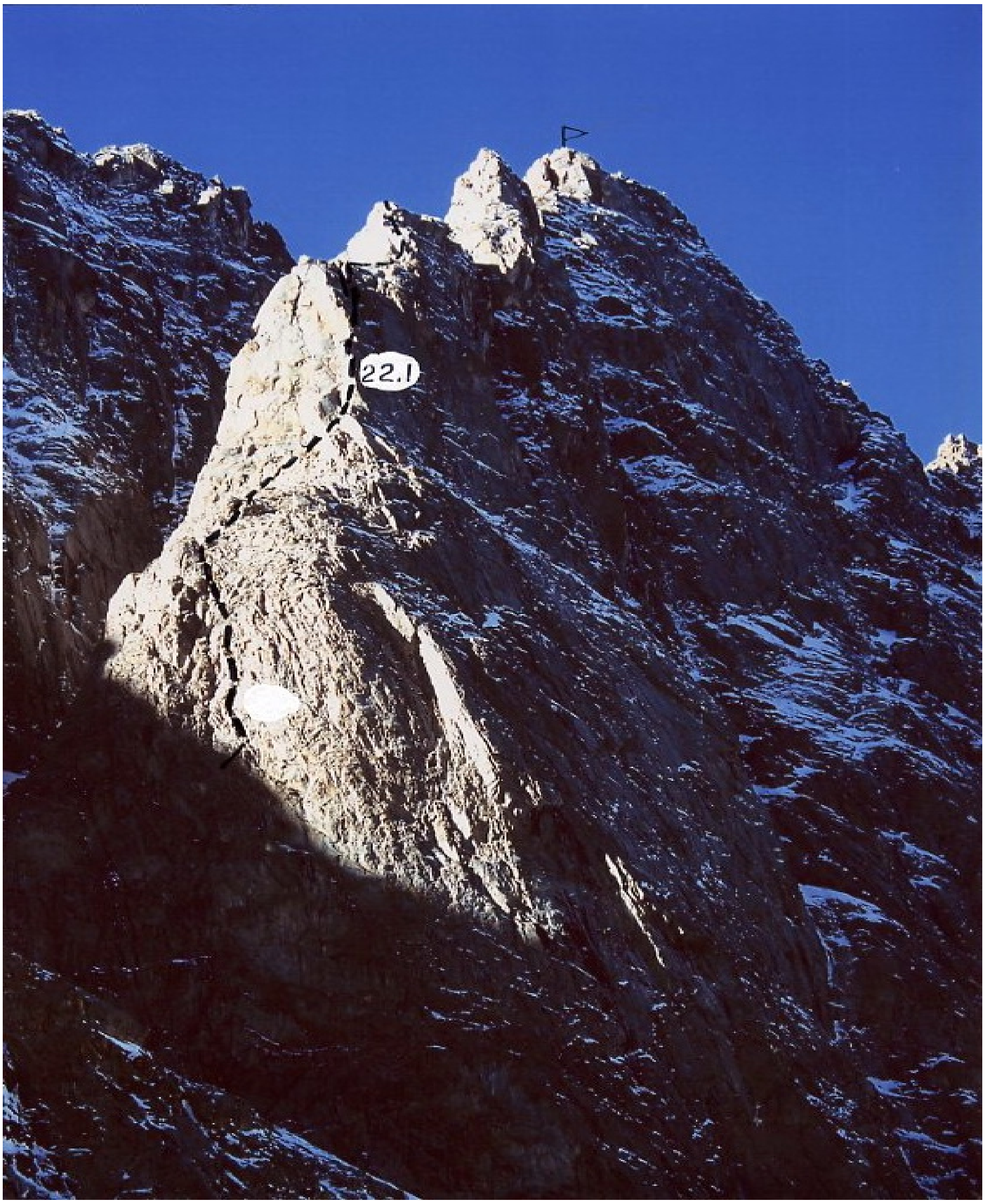
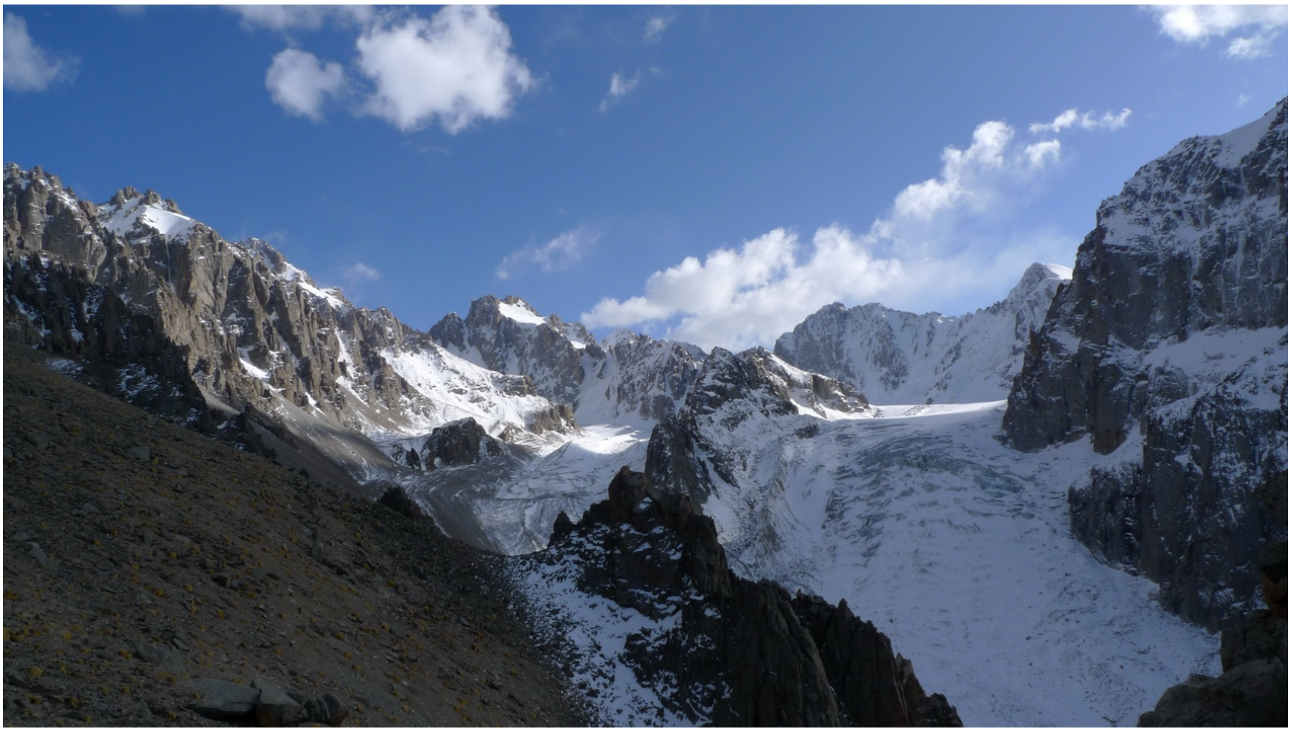


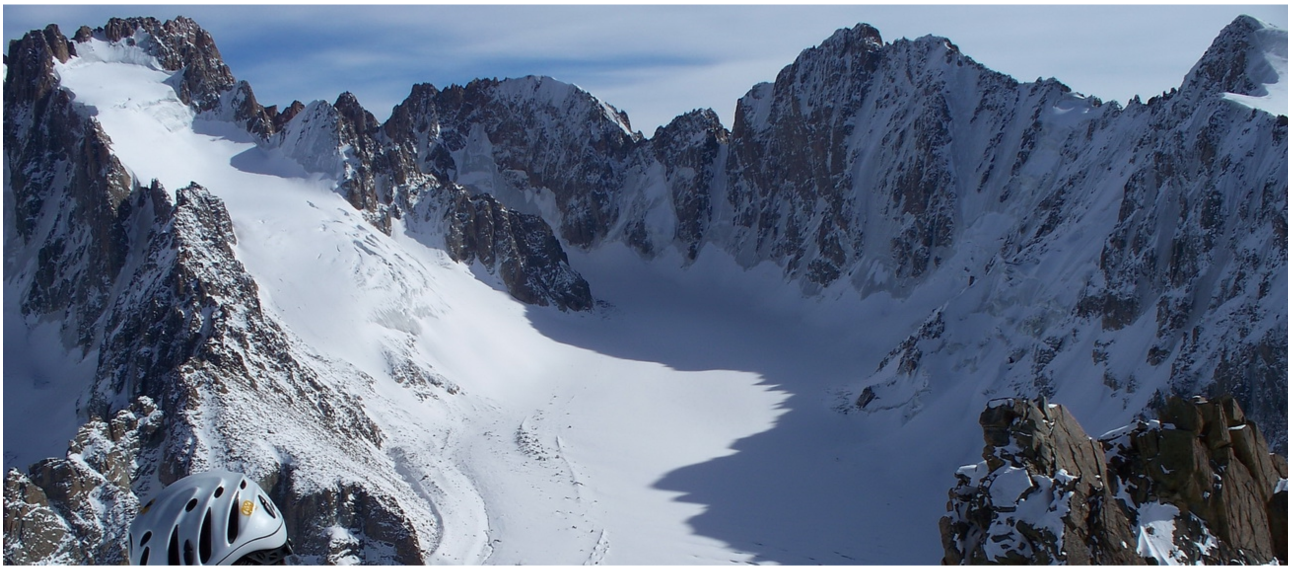
Photo n°27 Pero Peak from Ratsek stop

Views of summits and glaciers Ak-Say, Nauka and Uchitel

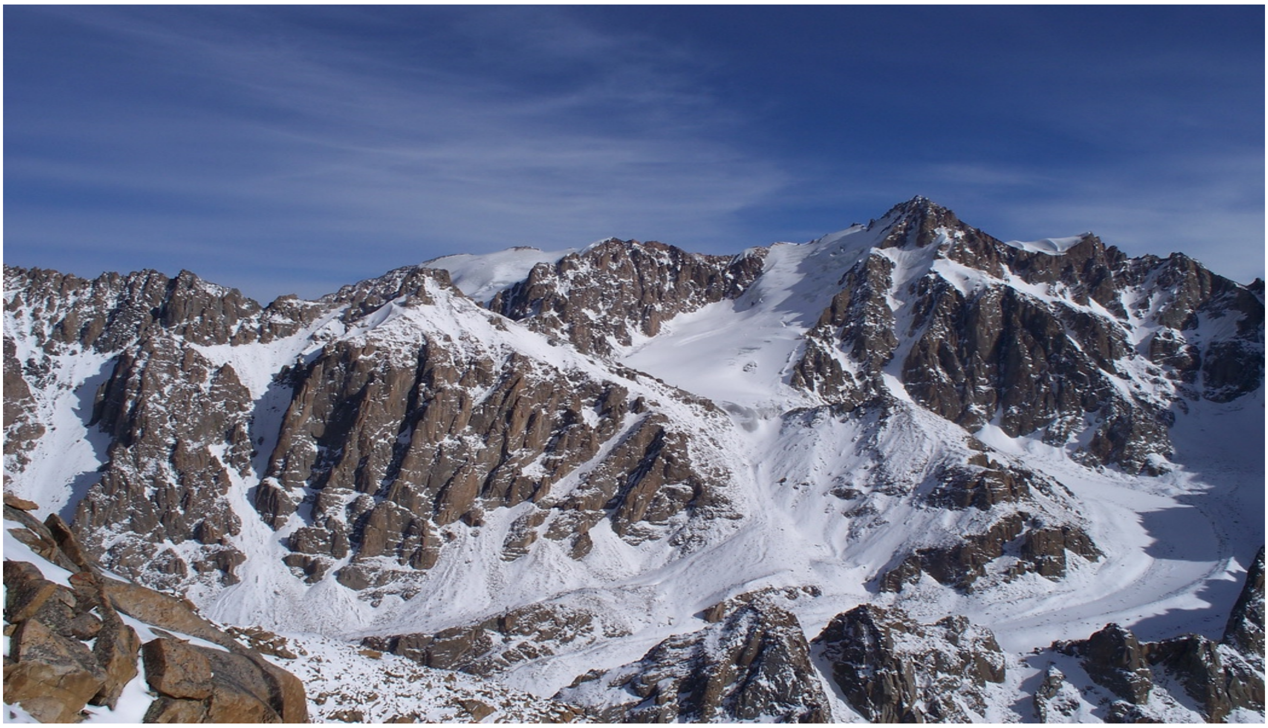
Main view of the Ak-Sai “horse shoe”, Ala-Archa



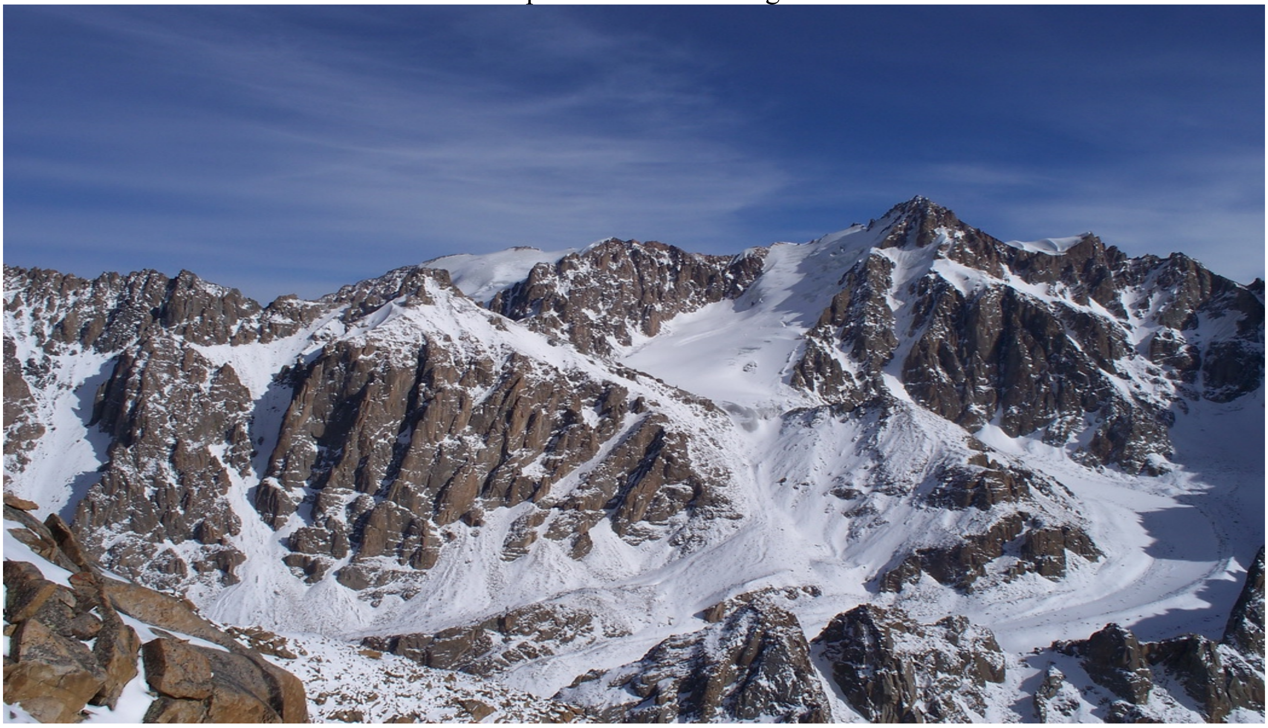
Corona and Ak-Saiglaciers. Peaks: Corona, Izyskatel, Kosmonavtov, Bailyan-Bashi, Simagina, Svobodnaya Korea and Ak-Too.



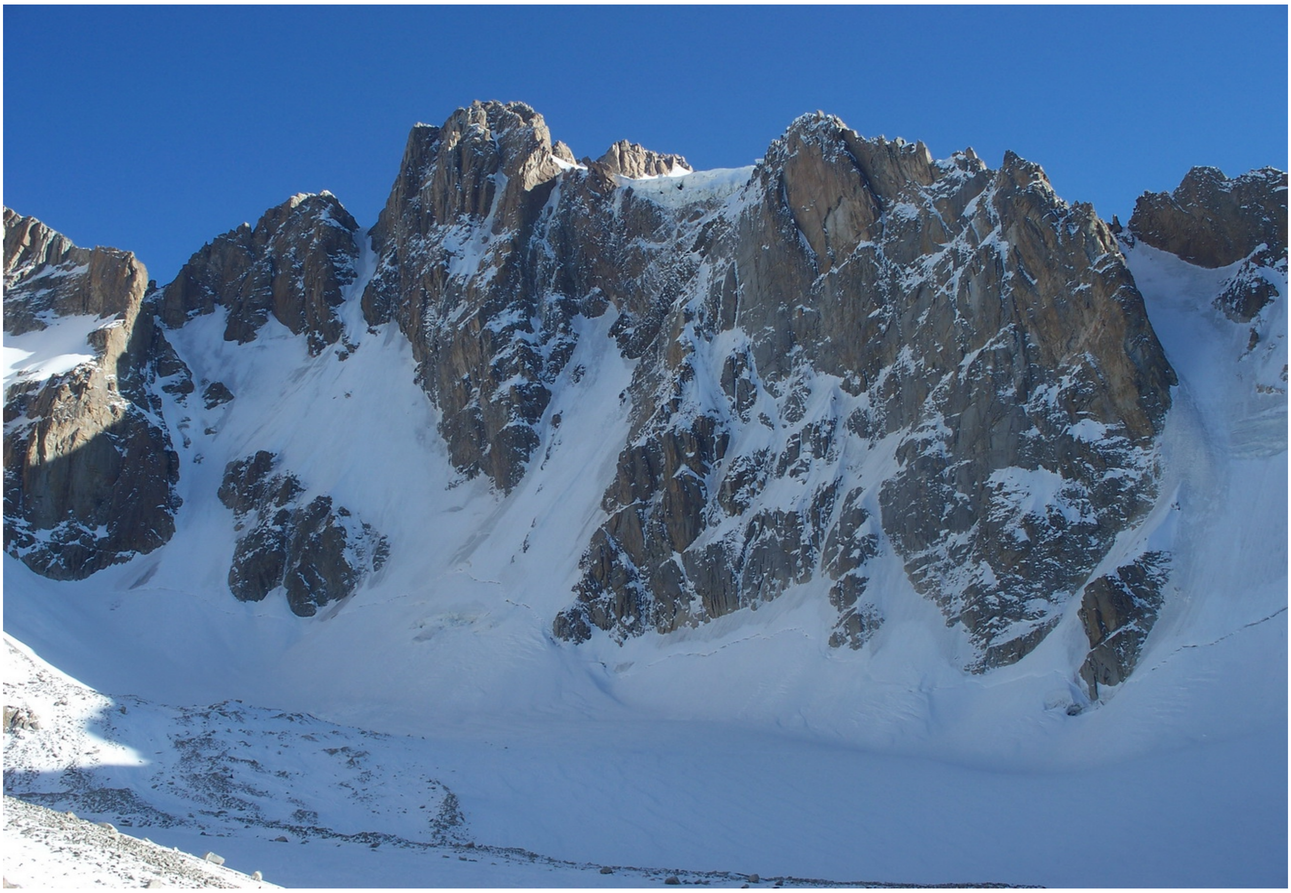
Peaks: Baichechekei, Skryabina and Semenova-Tienshanskogo



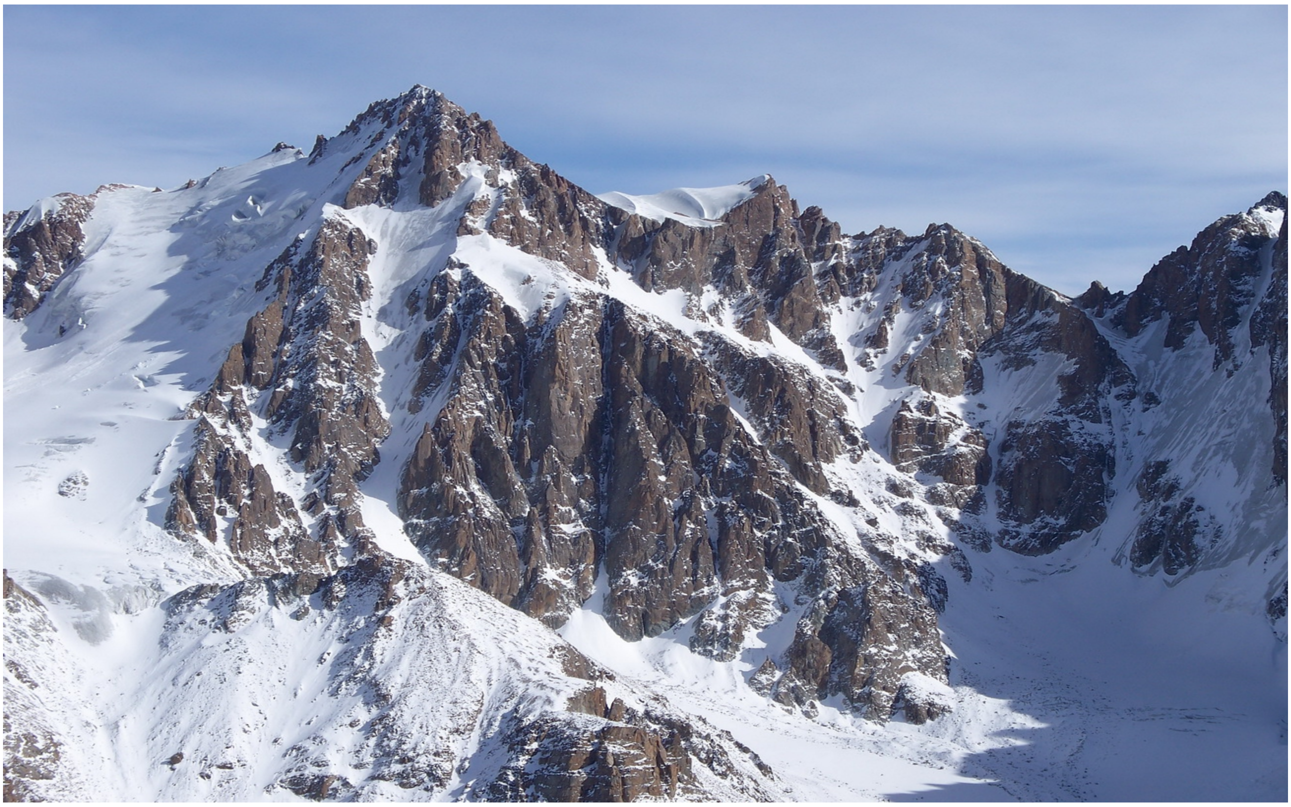
Korona peak and the Nauka glacier



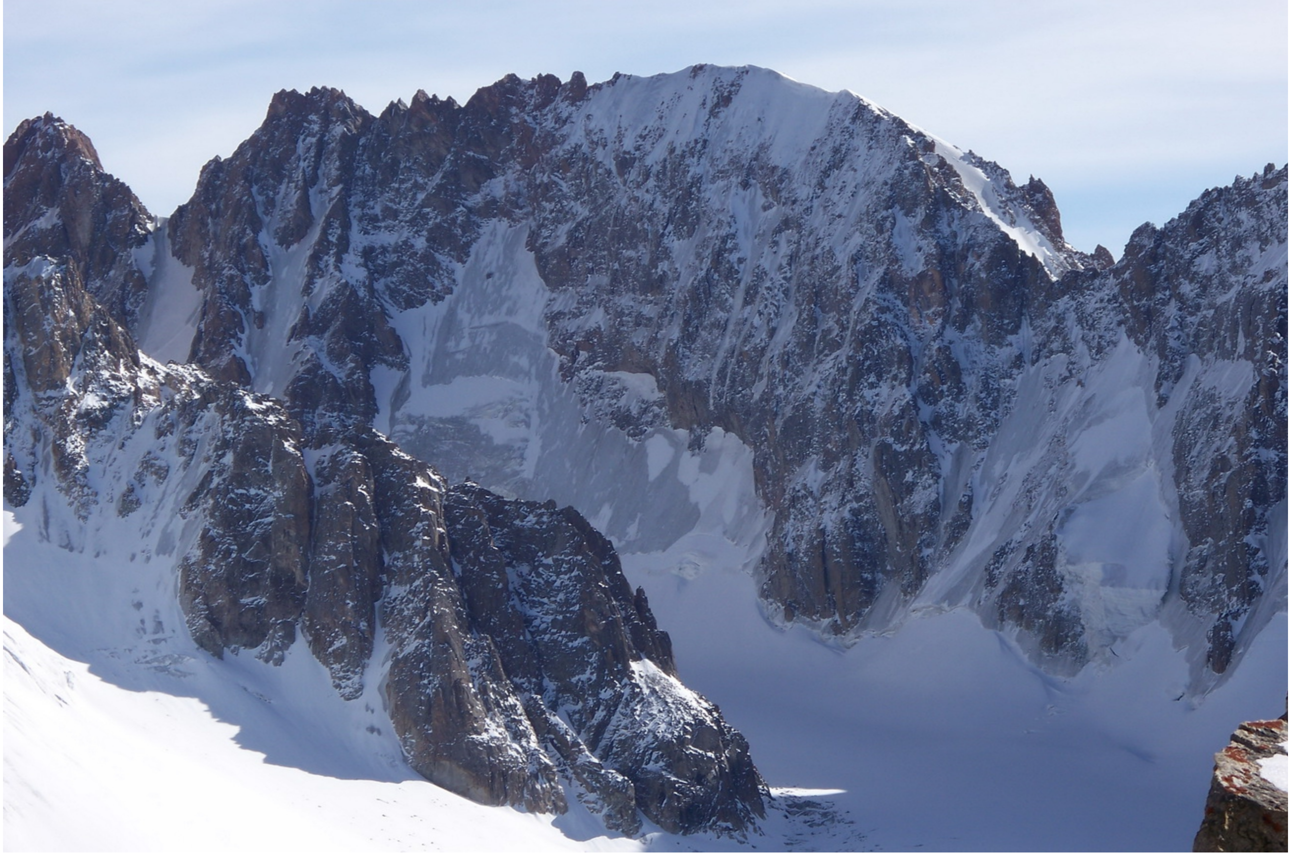
The northern wall of I turret of Corona Peak



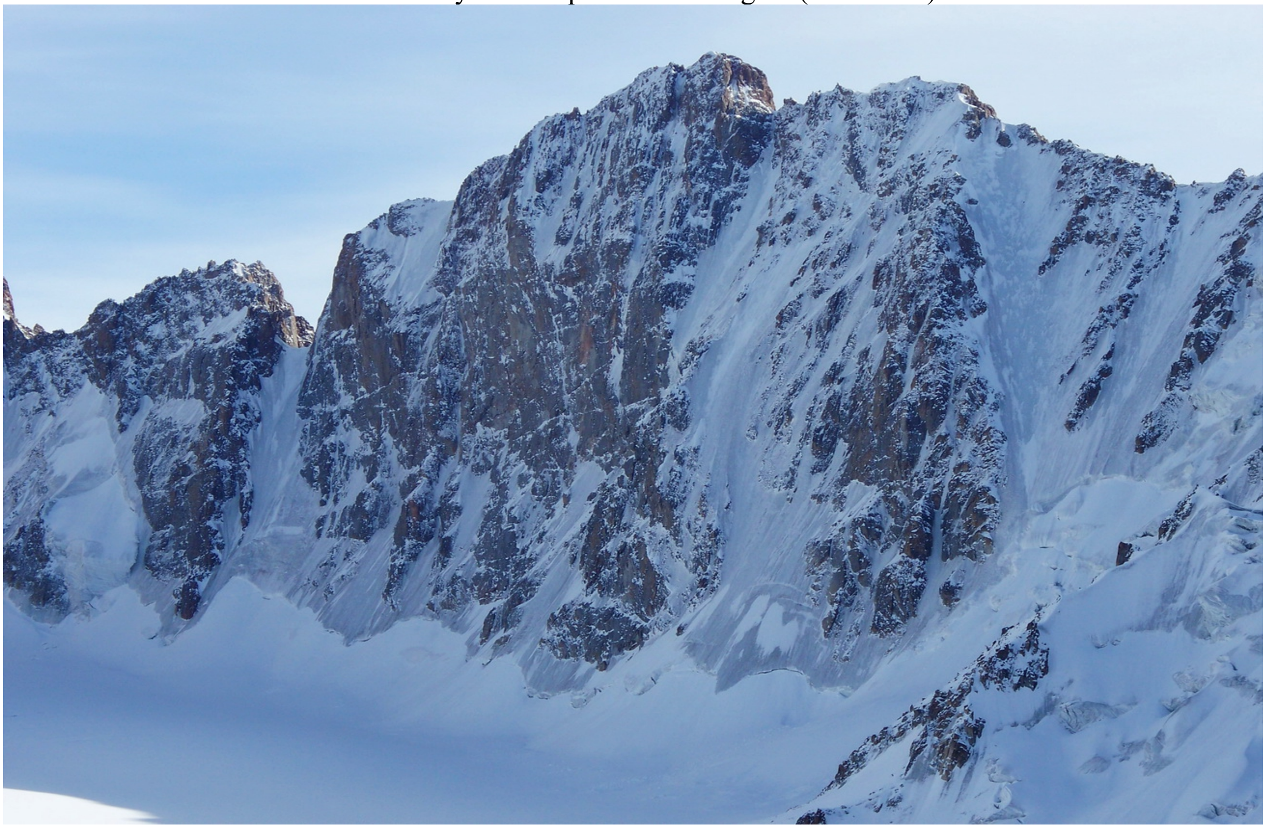
Semenov-Tienshanskiy Peak



Bailyan-Bashi and Kosmonavtov peak (on the left)



Svobodnaya Korea peak and Simagina (on the left)



Baichechekei peak in the evening

Baichechekei Peak

Ala-Too Peak

Teke-Tor Peak

Bocks Peak

Izyskatel Peak

Cornices of the training rocks at Razek camp side.

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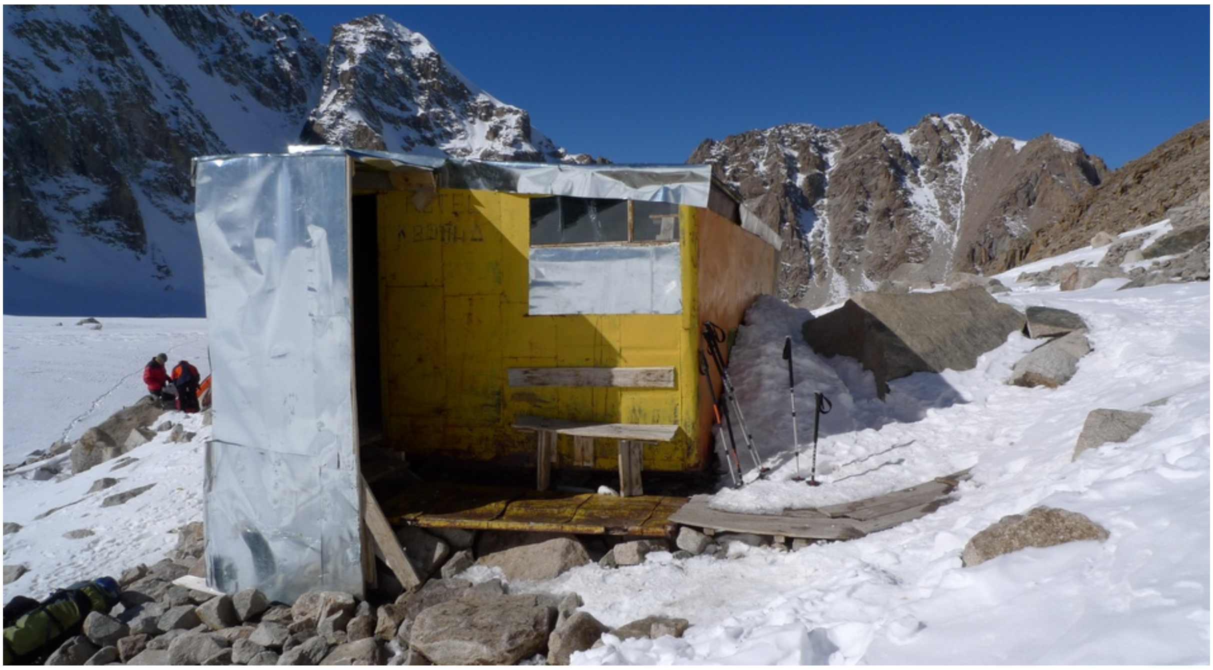
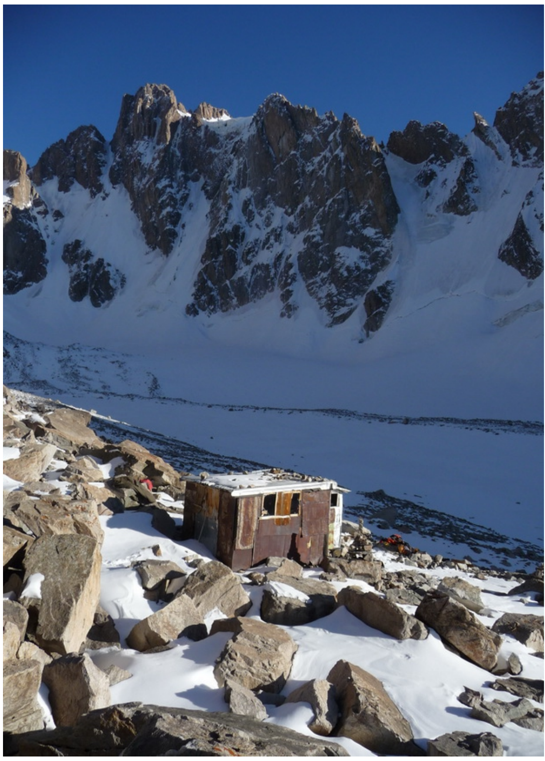
Rocks under Uchitel Peak

Coronskaya hut



Nauka hut



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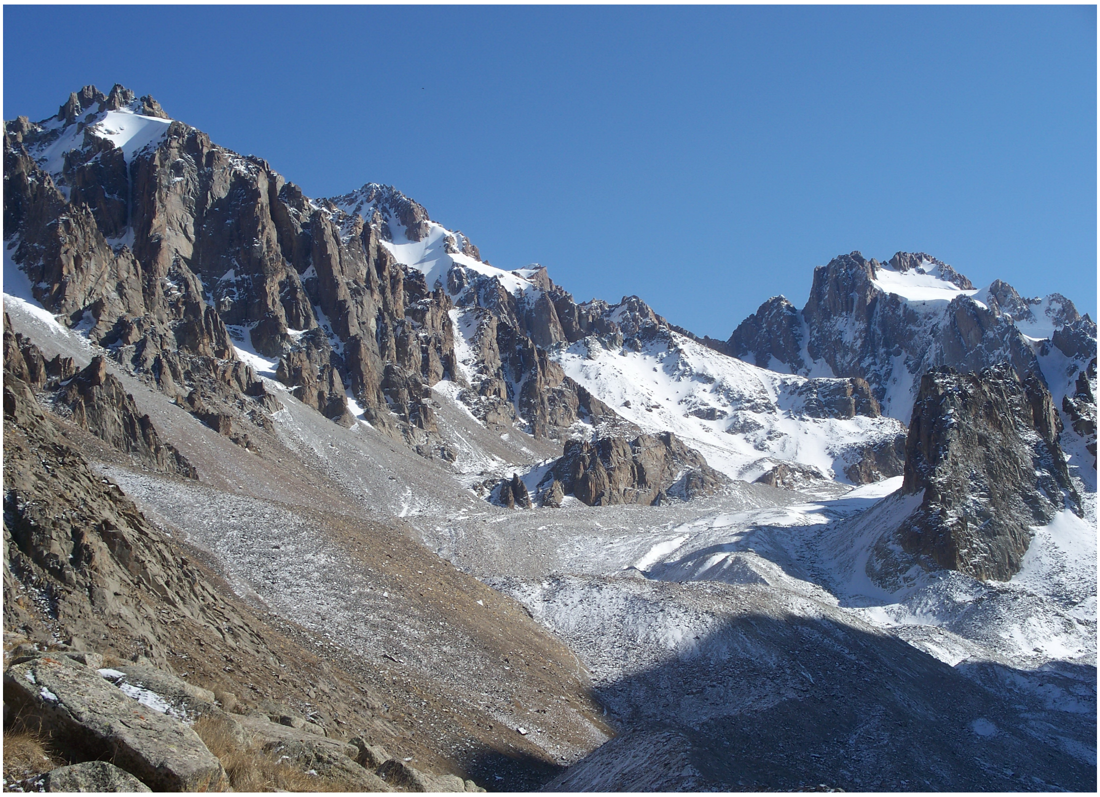

Photo n°28 Baichichikey, Semionova-Tienshanskogo and Korona Peaks. View from Ratsek stop

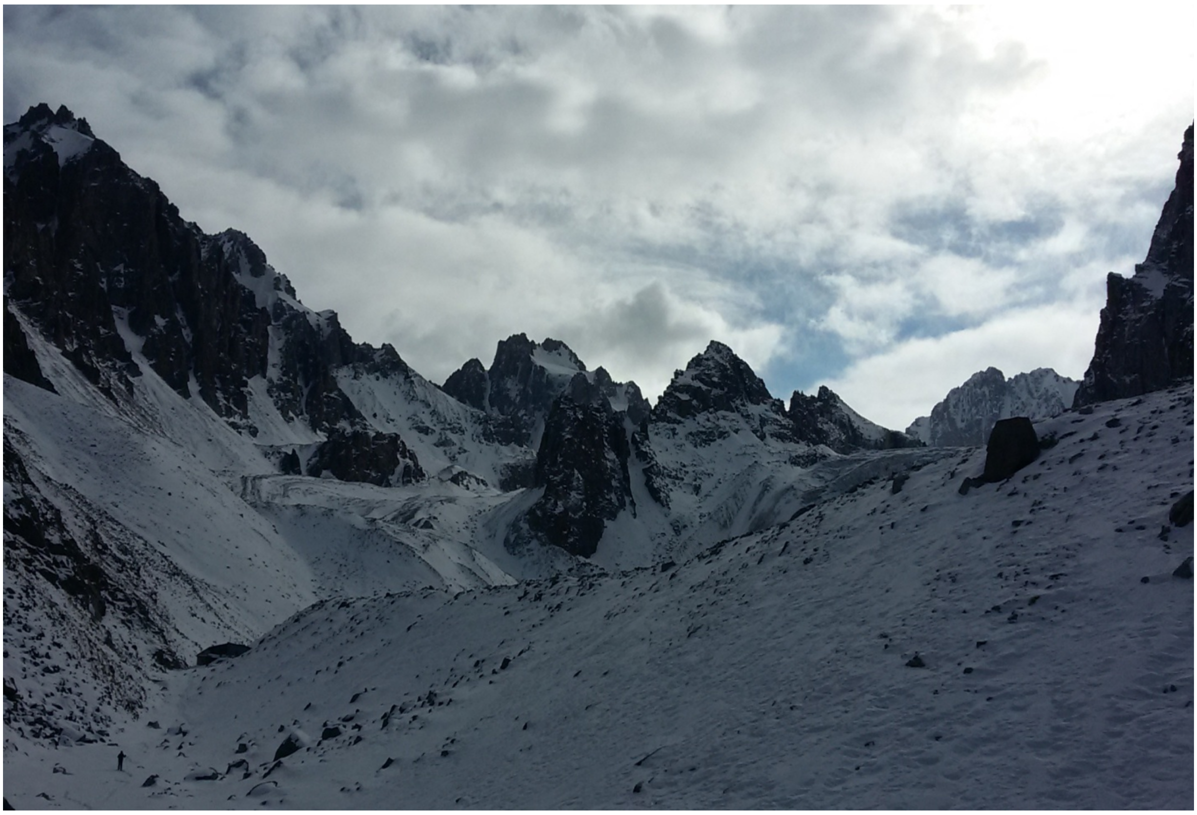

Photo n°29 Baichichikey, Semionova-Tienshanskogo, Korona, Ratseka and Free Korea Peaks. View from Ratsek stop

Photo n°30 Ak-Too, Teketor Peaks and Glacier Ak-Say (view from the Uchitel Peak)

Photo n°31 Boks Peak view from Komsomolets Peak

Photo n°32 View from the south-western slopes of the Peak Uchitel (on NNW) on the glacier Ak-Say

Photo n°33 Glaciers Uchitel (to the left) and Nauka. Semenov Tian Schanskogo (left) and Korona Peaks

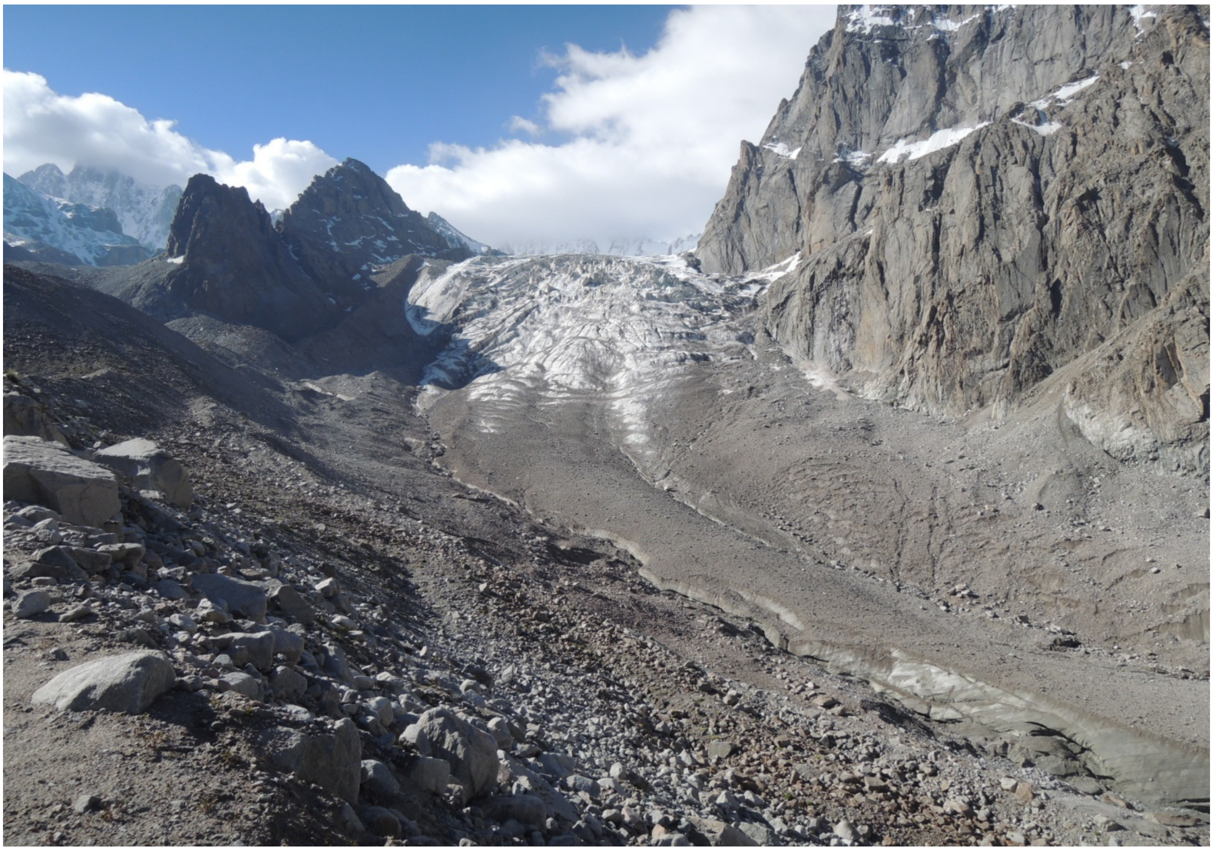

Photo 34 Ak-Say Glacier 2016, July

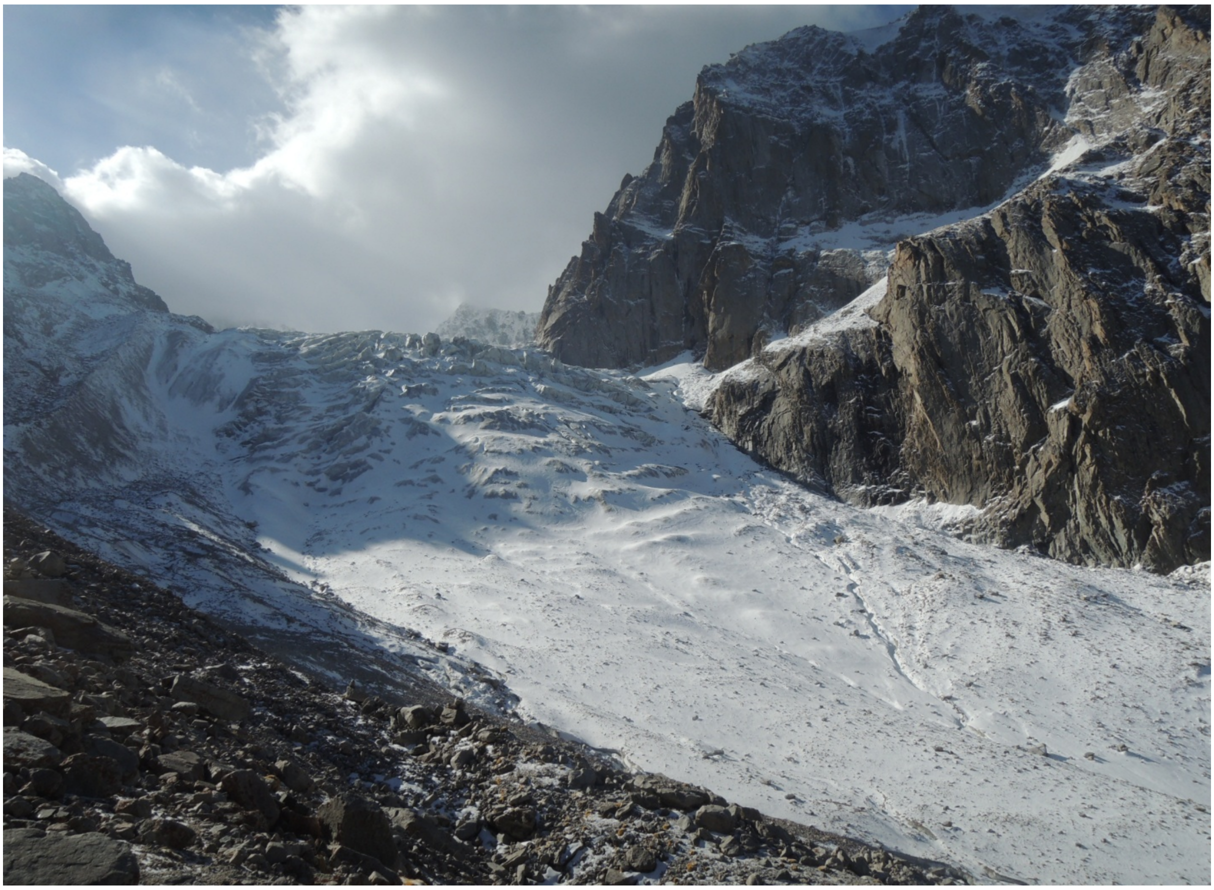

Photo 35 Ak-Say Glacier 2013, April

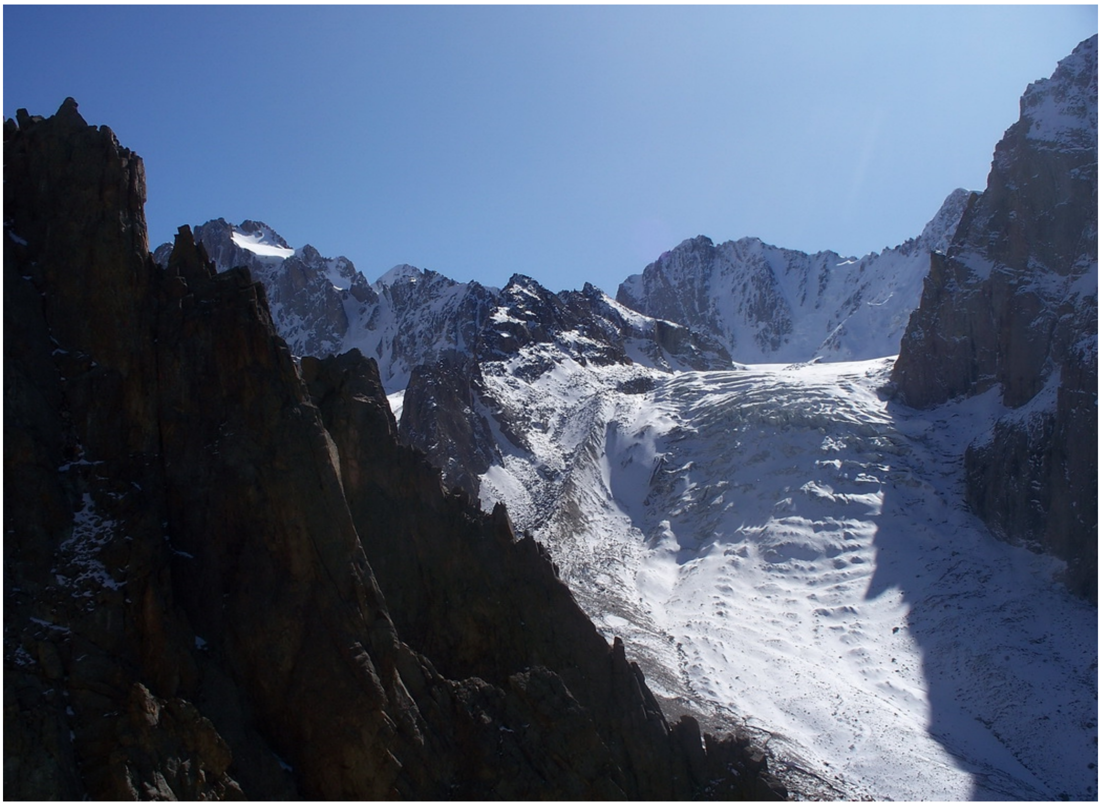

Photo n°36 Ak-Say Glacier 2008, October

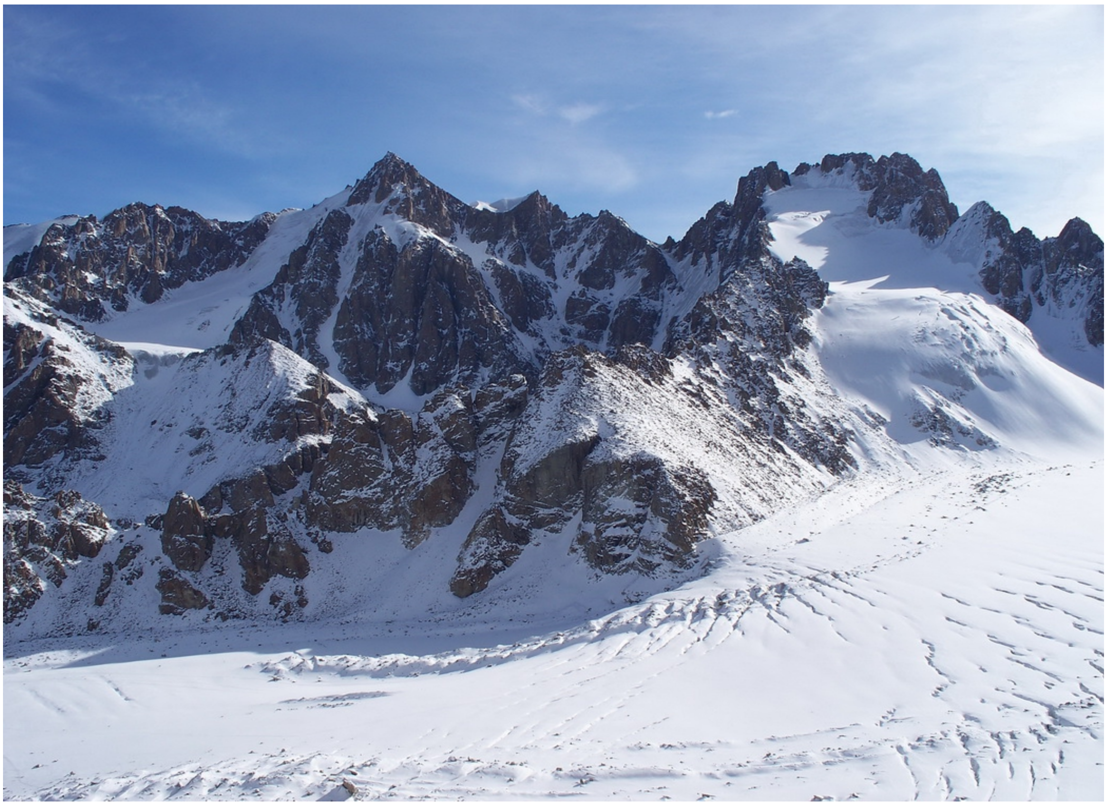

Photo n°37 Uchitel (left), Ak-Say and Korona (right) Glaciers. Skriabina, Semionova Tian-Shanskogo, Korona, Izyskatel and Kosmonavtov Peaks

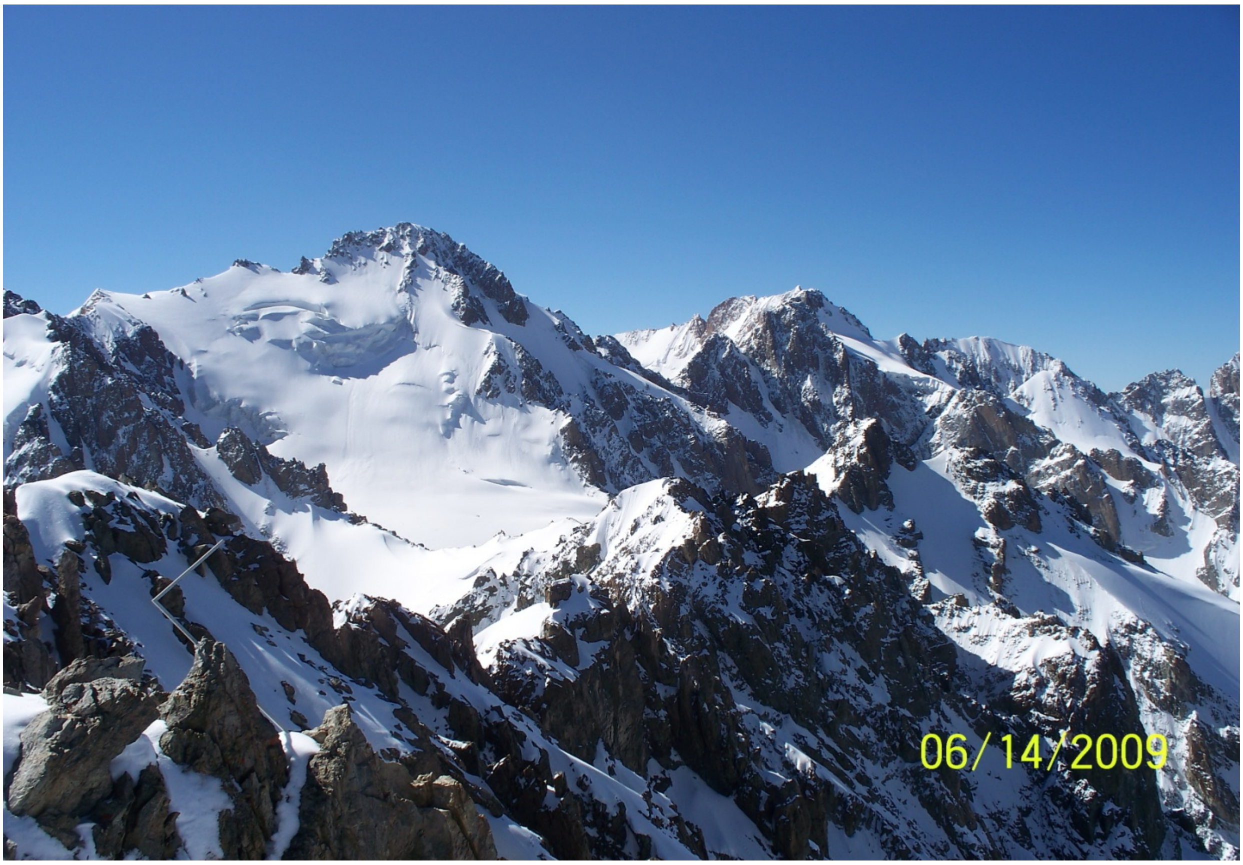

Photo 38 Semenov-Tyan-Shankogo and Korona (right) Peaks. In the foreground ridge between the Baychichikey and Uchitel peaks

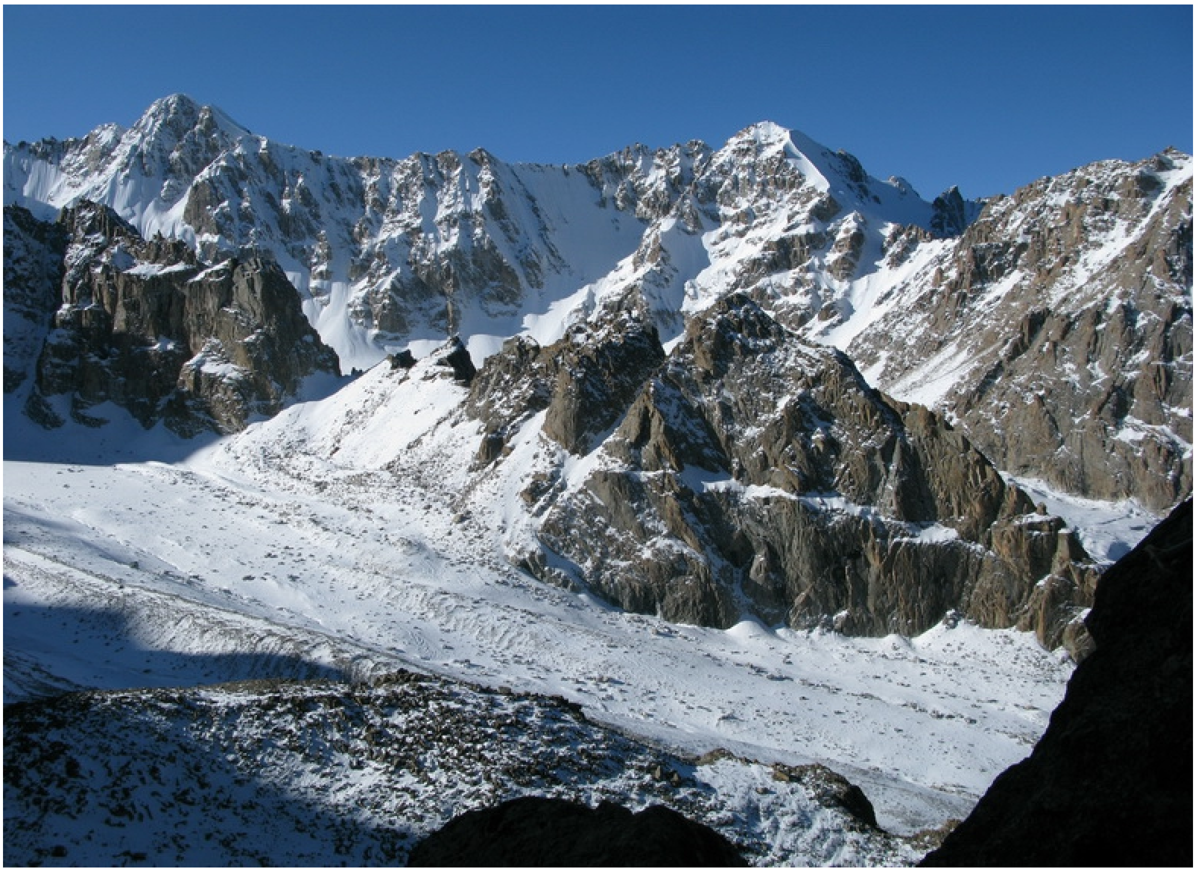

Photo 39 Nauka Glacier. Ak-Too (left) and Teke-Tor Peaks, in the foreground Ratseka Peak. View from the NNE

Photo 40. Boks and Pero Peaks North face

Photo 41 Rocks spurs at Ratseka campground. On Background Uchitel and Baychechekey (right) Peaks.

Pictures of Ratseka campground and huts of Ak-Say

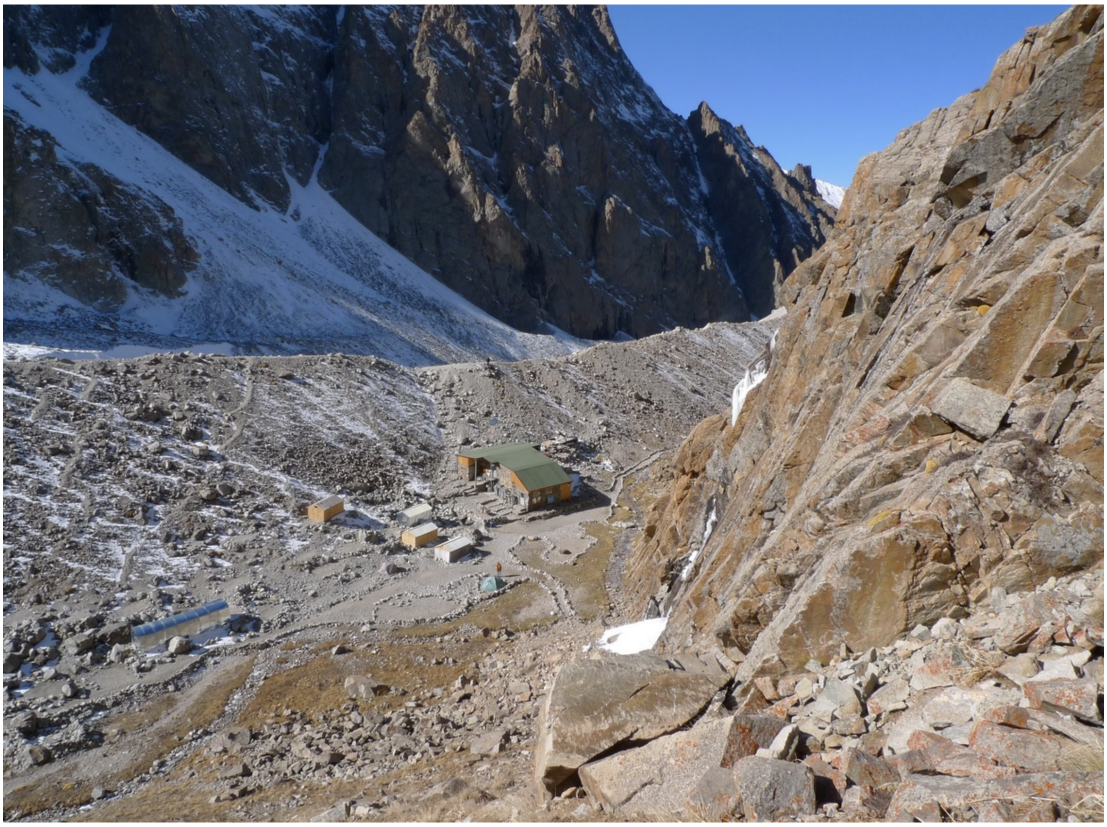

Photo n°42 Ak-Say Hut at campground Ratseka

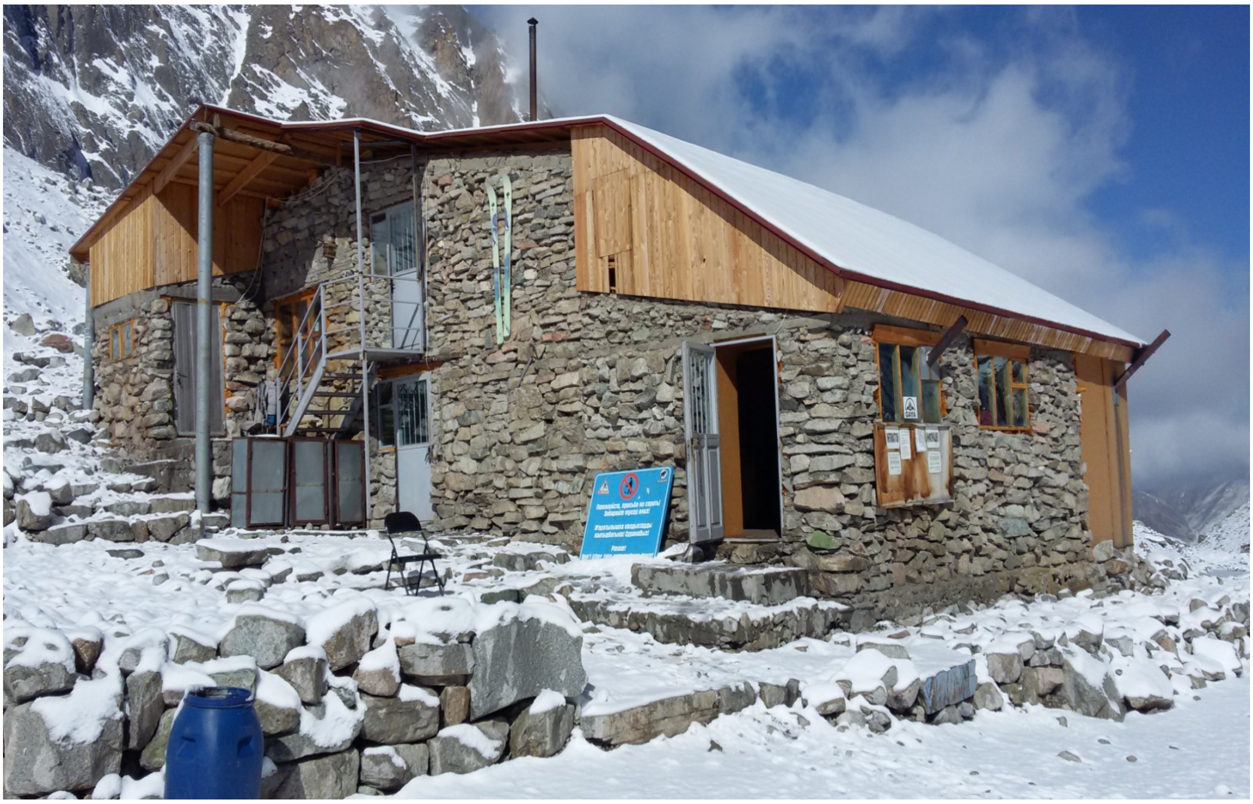

Photo 43. Ak-Say Hut

Photo 44. Ak-Say Hut

Photo 45. Ak-Say Hut

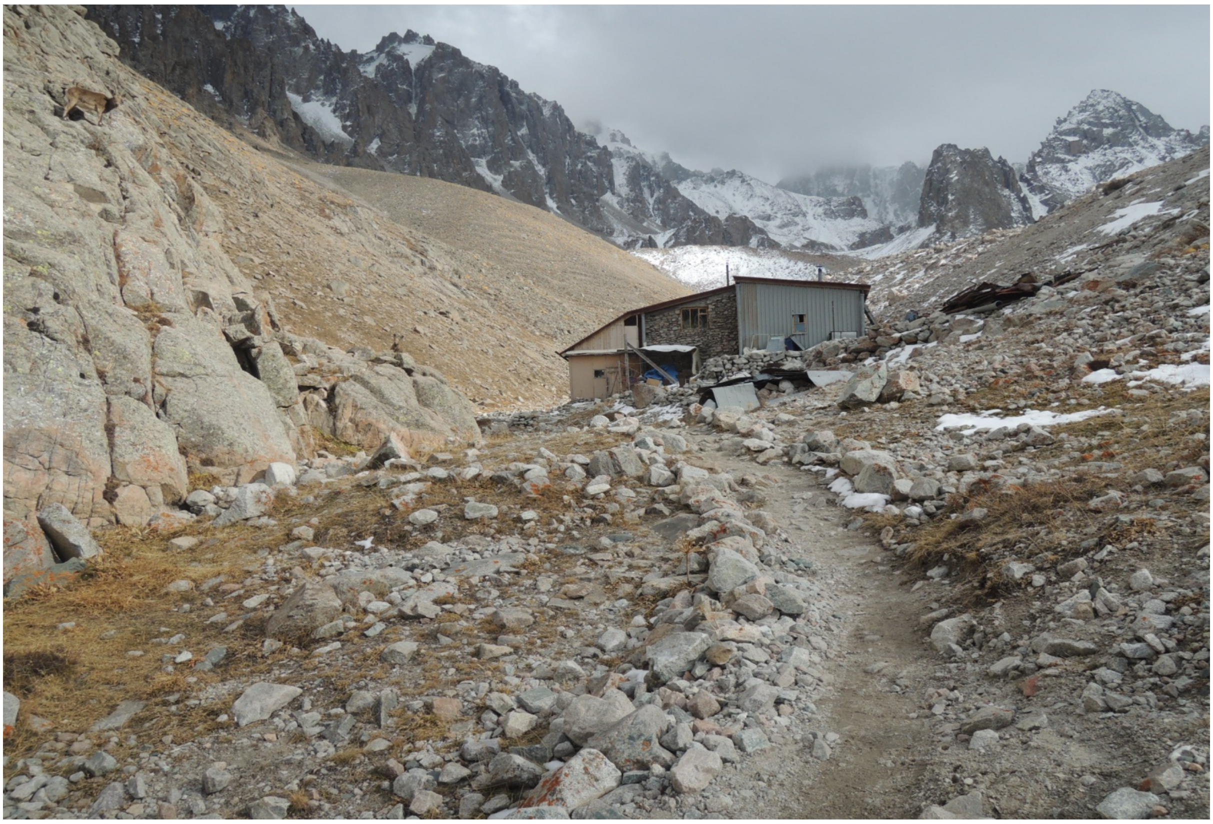

Photo 46. Ak-Say Hut

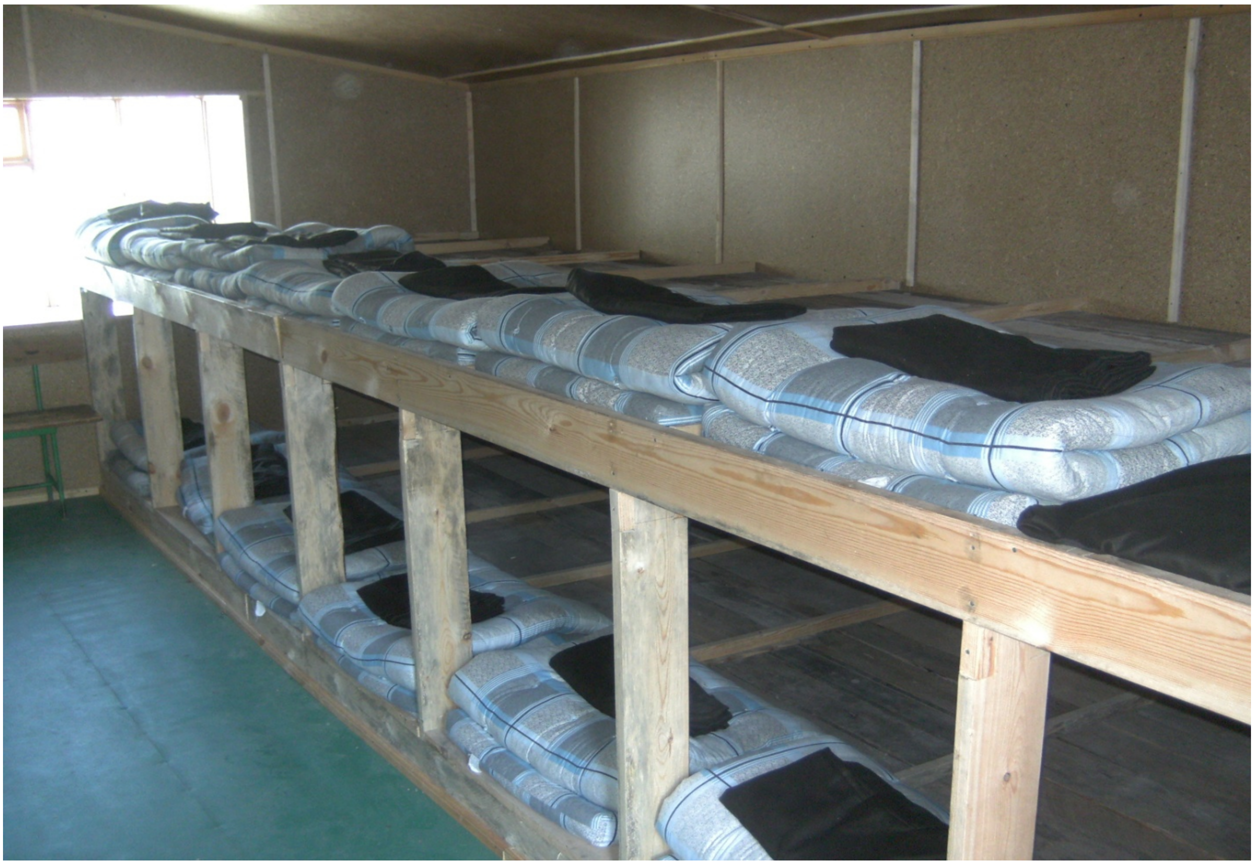

Photo 47 16-bedded room on the second floor of the hut Ak-Say

Photo 48 Same as in the picture 47

Photo 49 "Wardroom" in the hut Ak-Say

Photo 50 "Wardroom" in the hut Ak-Say

мусор вниз
Take the garbage down please

Photo 51 The kitchen is a 6-bedded room at Ak-Say hut

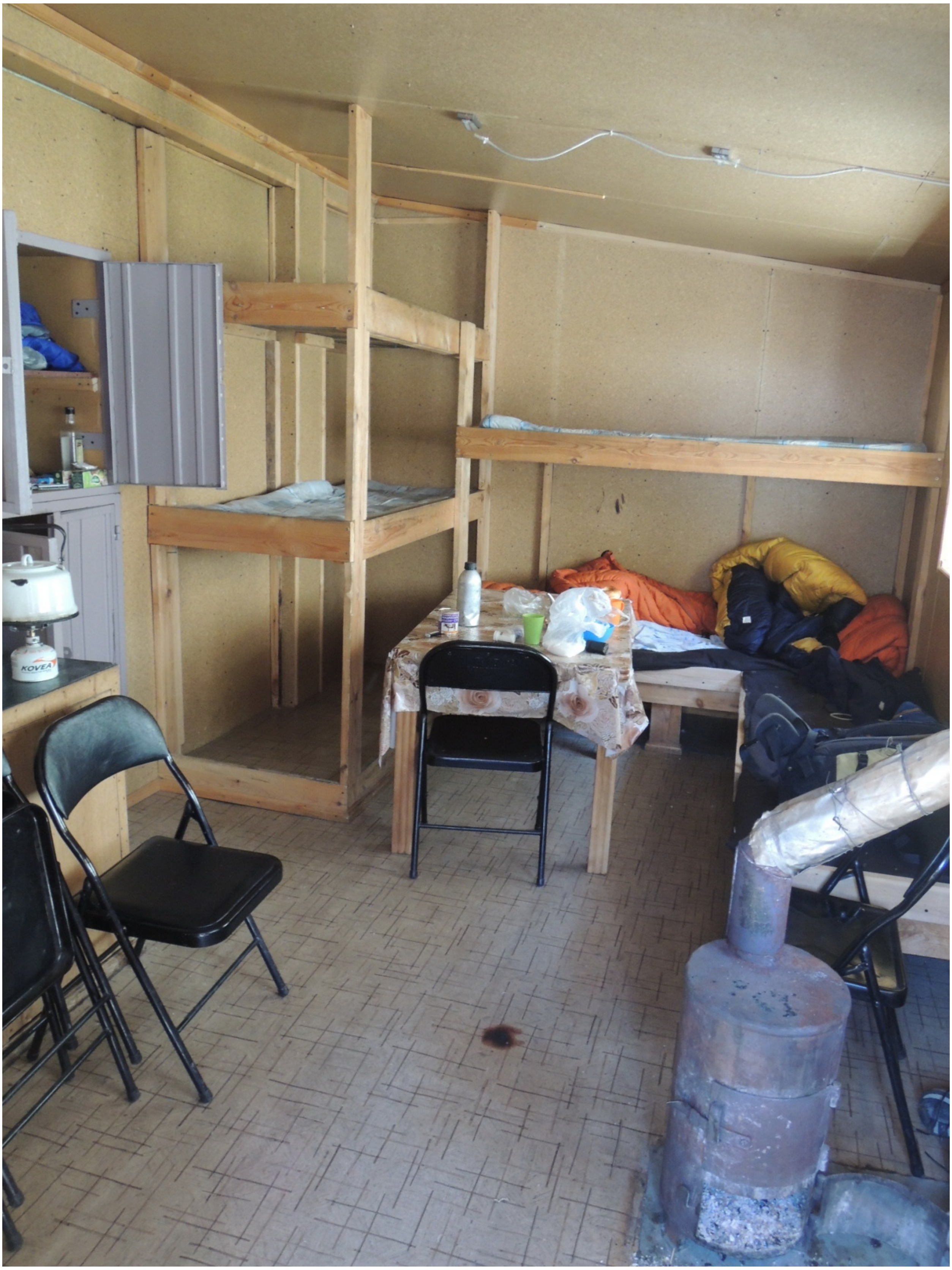

Photo 52 6-bedded room at Ak-Say hut

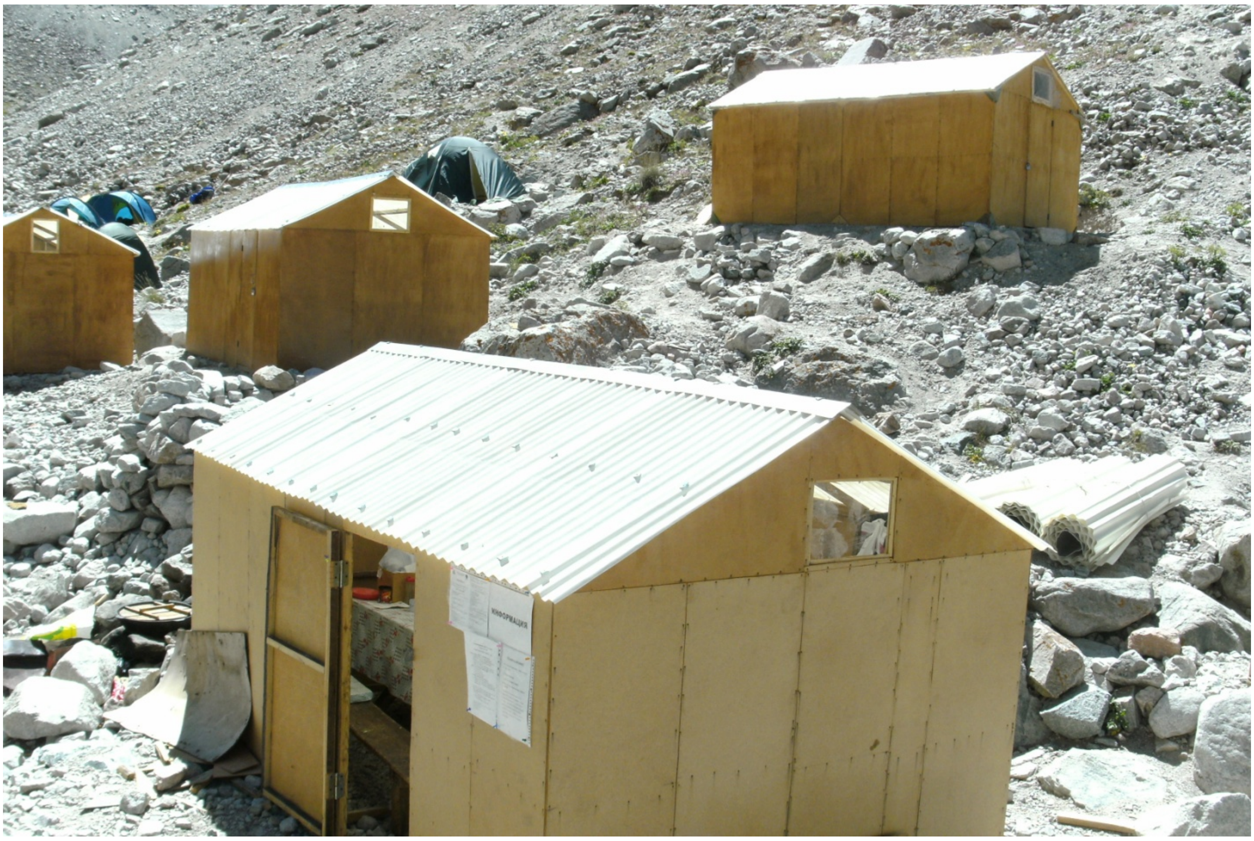
ИНФОРМАЦИЯ

Photo 53 In the foreground, a dining room-kitchen

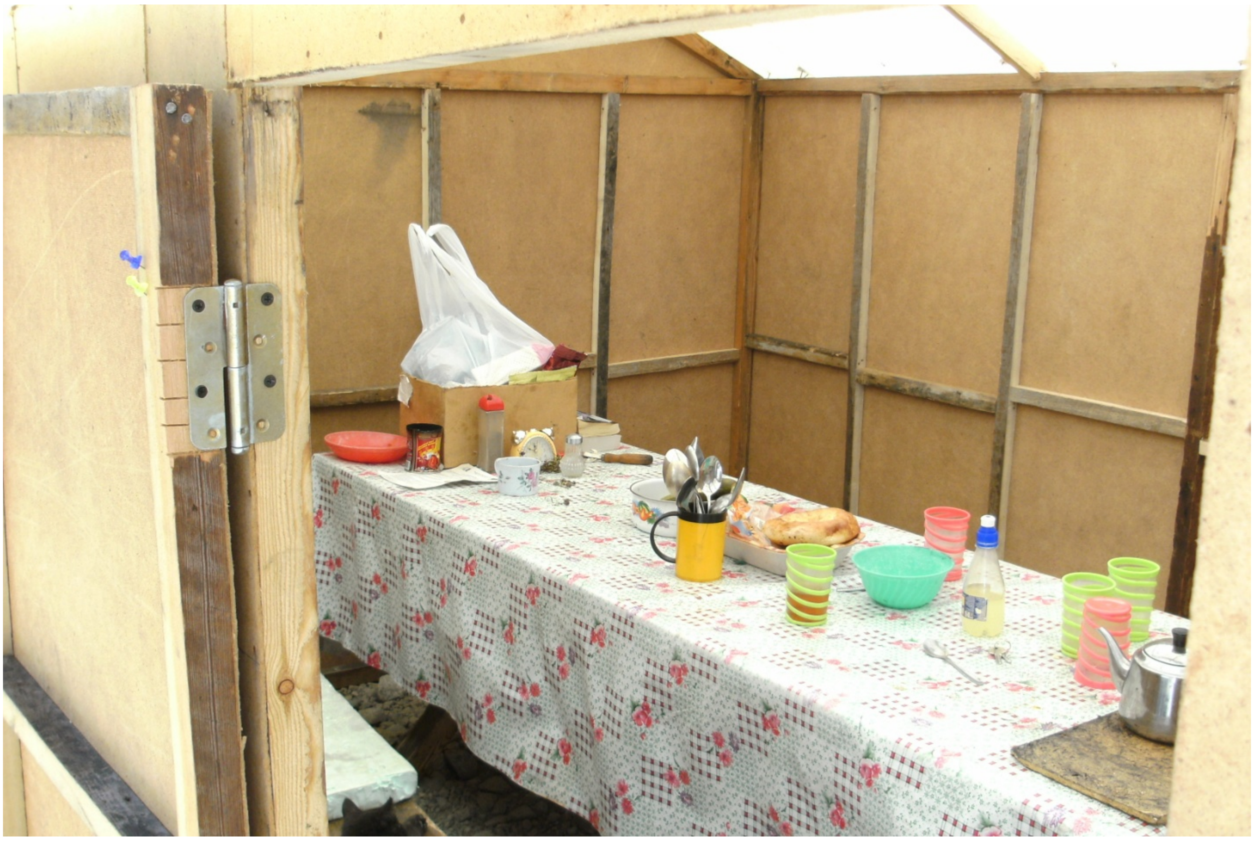

Photo 54 Inside the dining room-kitchen

Photo 55 Waterfall in the Ratseka campground

Photo 56 Waterfall in the Ratseka campground

On the path to the Ratseka campground on Ala-Archa gorge

Photo 56 Here, in the Ala-Archa Natural Park, the trail begins to Ratseka campground and Ak-Say glacier

Photo 57 The path to the Ratseka campground

Photo 59 The path to the Ratseka campground (autumn)

Photo 60 The path to the Ratseka campground (winter)

Photo 61 Sharkyratma River Gorge on the way to the Ratsek camproung. On the background rocks of Olega Koshevogo Peak

Photo 62 The upper part of the trail to the Ratseka campground

Regular guests at the Ratseka campground

Photo 63 Siberian ibex "Teke" on the rocks at the Ratseka campground

Photo 64 "Teke" at the Ratsek campground

Trek in the main valley of Ala-Archa to the old ski resort and the moraine lake 3543 m of the great Ala-Archa glacier GPS location: WGS 84: 42.44193 ° N 74.44948 ° E

Former dormitory building of a ski resort of the Soviet era, located at the foot of the following 4 glaciers:
- Manas glacier
- Toktogul Glacier
- Bolshoi Ala-Archinskiy Glacier (Great Ala-Archa Glacier)
- Maliy Ala-Archinskiy Glacier (Small Ala-Archa Glacier)
- Maliy Ala-Archinskiy Zapadnyie Glacier (Small Ala-Archa Glacier West)

Access. ***From Manas International Airport to Bishkek***: Take the "marchrutka" 380 located in front of the taxi stand, the final destination is in front of the Raritet bookshop, at the corner of Chuy Prospect and Molodaya Gvardia (renamed Chash Gvardia). Price 50 soms. ***From Bishkek-Bazaar from Osh to Alplager***: Take the "marchrutka" n°265 in the area of the Osh Bazaar at the stop at the corner of the Moskva (Moskovskaya) and Beinchenalieva. Price 45 soms with the bag. The terminus of the marchrutka is located in the village of Kashka-suu, located 6 km before the entrance of the Park. Beyond you can hitchhike. The entrance to the park is 60 soms per vehicle. If you are alone on foot it is also 60 soms. The road goes up to the Alplager again for several kilometers. ***From the Alplager to the old ski base***: From the Alplager there is about 15km of steady uphill walking from 2100m to 3300m. This is the estimate that is given by the signs at the entrance to Ala-Archa National Park. However this will be the only indication of departure. Beyond it will be necessary to find the different valleys / right tributaries that flows into the torrent of Ala-Archa. In the upstream order, the right tributaries are:
- Ak-sai: about 1 km upstream
- Teketor: about 2 km upstream
- Top Karagai: about 6 km upstream
- Tuyuk-Suu: about 10 km upstream
- Djeldy-suu (Golubina Glacier Stream): about 11 km upstream

The climbing path follows mainly an old 4x4 track/buldozer to the station. From the Alplager, follow the paved road to a tourist yurt camp. Then the trail starts by fording the Ak-Saï, staying on the right bank of the Ala-Archa. It then crosses the Teketor whose bed is usually dry. The trail that goes up in the steep Teketor valley starts on the right bank of the Teketor. However, no sign indicates it but the trace is visible. ***Let's go back to the Ala-Archa trail***. Barely 200 meters after crossing the Teketor, the 4x4 track forded the torrent of Ala-Archa. On foot it is obviously not possible (very dangerous Ala-Archa is one of the largest torrents in the area), because the current is too strong, and the river relatively deep. ***One of the authors tested for you the ford, it was left for a good fright and a good swim!*** Just before the ford at the foot of a fir Tien-Shan tree, is a large cairn indicating the entrance of a small path that joins 20 meters below hidden in the trees a good wooden bridge that spans the bubbling torrent. We then quietly up the track for several kilometers on the left bank to overcome the mouth of the Top Karagaï. From there the trail crosses again the Ala-Archa stream towards its right bank. The bridge is 50 m just before the ford. It is not an engaging aspect with boards rather worm-eaten but it passes. It is a narrow 70/80 cm bridge without parapet.

Beyond it continues on the right bank for 3 kilometers to reach the mouth of the Tuyuk-Suu which crosses easily on stones. 1 km further we cross the Golubina glacier stream, the Djeldy-Suu, it will then rely on 2 small wooden boards spanning the few arms to pass the feet dry (beware the cool morning, the boards can be icy). The planks are located 50 meters below the track which at this point was totally broken down by the torrent bed.

Once through the Djeldy-suu, we always go up on the right bank to a valley lock formed by a huge cone of debris from a spur on the right bank of the valley. At this point the river runs under the stones and the track cross dry to the left bank. Above is a one-kilometer shelf, with old buildings smashed. It is a place of pasture for the horses. The place is pleasant enough for a bivouac provided to take the water away from the grazing areas of animals. The track is still on the left bank and goes back to a new flat with marshy areas that are bypassed by rocks on the left bank.

The trail continues on the left bank up to the old main moraine of the glaciers of the area at the time of the great glaciations. The trail climbs first the left bank of the moraine then globally makes a lateral movement towards the right bank by waking somewhat in the morainic zone. The station is not visible at all. Do not despair because it is located exactly at the foot of a characteristic rocky outcrop at 3800 m provided on its right side (up) of a nice ice corridor on 500 vertical meters. The spur separates the courses of the two glaciers Bolshoi and Maliy Ala-Archinskiy.

The other bivouac in the area is located at the edge of one of the lakes of the moraine of the great glacier of Ala-Archa at 3545 m. At the approach of the first main moraine, instead of going to the right bank of the valley, a track reported by cairns goes up rather on the left bank. But the valley widens considerably. The landmark of the trail is a small stream that flows flanking a slight jump. It comes from a system of three higher lakes, a large lake at 3545 m, a small lake at 3600 m, and a glacial lake above at 3650 m. Following the torrent we arrive by grassy/rocky slopes at the edge of the lake with some suitable places of bivouac (3545 m). Lake Superior 3600 is located almost at the foot of the glacier moraine of the Maliy-Ala-Archinskiy Zapadniy Glacier. Both lakes are marked on the maps and in the field by significant cairns.

Climbing opportunities around the old Ala-Archa ski resort

- Bolshoy glacier basin Ala-Archinskiy
  - Robsona Peak: 3983 North Slope, 1B, F
  - Keldy-Choku Peak 4000, North Slope, 1B, F
  - Peak 4060, southern slope, 1B, F
  - Peak Sovietskiy Ofitserov 4098 by Robsona Pass, rocking on the southern slope of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too and then up through the eastern ridge, visual 2A, PD

- Toktogul Glacier Basin
  - Toktogul Peak, 4350

- Manas Glacier Basin
  - Peak Studentov 4279, 2B, in visual Ridge West by the Southwest valley adjoining Manas glacier, PD +
  - Manas Peak, 4306
  - Logvinenko Peak, 4361, North East Face, 2B, PD +
  - Toktogul Peak, 4350, rocky traverse from Logvinenko Peak, 3A, AD

- Maliy Ala-Archinskiy Glacier Basin

  - Pic Sovietskiy Ofitserov 4098, by the North Slope, 3A, AD, ice
  - Ala-Archa Pass and West and East Points

Possibility of ascents around the lake 3545 m

- Maliy Ala-Archinskiy Zapadniy Glacier Basin
  - Molodaya Gvardia Peak, Rock, North Ridge, 2B, PD +
  - Peak 4117, South Ridge, 1B, F
  - Shirokaya Peak, 4002, East Face, 1B, F
  - Peak 4048

Some short topo summits around the old ski base

Peak 4117: WGS 84: 42.45725 ° N 74.41758 ° E Cartography: 50,000th, K43-053-4

Summit located in the circus of the glacier Maliy Ala-Archinskiy West, North, on the map 4117.9.

South Ridge: from Lake 3545 m, go up to the small lake just above North West. From there take foot on the Maliy Ala-Archinskiy West Glacier by a short moraine. We go around the rocky foothills in an easterly direction towards the 3907 pass that separates the Molodaya Gvardia Peak (4098m) and the Peak 4117. From here follow the ridge up to the summit we can go around the antecime by the West side. Descent: Identical, or join the Shirokaya Peak (4002), descending 200 meters on the southern ridge, then enter the western face of rock scree to reach the collar before the Shirokaya Peak

Shirokaya Peak 4002: WGS 84: 42.45484 ° N 74.40694 ° E Cartography: 50,000th, K43-053-4

Summit located on the other side of the circus glacier Maliy Ala-Archinskiy West, in the circus of a glacier whose name is Edelweiss, rated 4002.5 on the map. The summit is in the upper basin of the river Chon-Tor, main valley of Sokuluk.

East Face: To 3907 Pass: From Lake 3545 m, go up to the small lake just above North West. From there take foot on the Maliy Ala-Archinskiy West Glacier by a short moraine. The rocky outcrops are easterly turned towards the 3907 which separates the Molodaya Gvardia Peak (4098m) and the Peak 4117. From there follow the southern ridge of the Peak 4417 up to a small rocky outcrop. From there enter the west face to reach below the collar No. 93 and then up the east side easily. Descent: Same route

Ala-Archa Pass - Southeast Point 3970 and North Point West 3980, WGS 84: 42.43733 ° N 74.42548 ° E

Pass located at the lowest saddle of the glacier Maliy Ala-Archinskiy West, 3907, it allows the passage of the valley of Ala-Archa North to the valley of Ala-Archa South (same name). Two points are easily accessible on both sides by detrital rock reliefs.

Itinerary: From the lake at 3545 m, passing by the small lake to take the right bank to quickly reach the glacier after crossing a moraine coour. From there follow on the regular and not cracked slopes facing south, to reach a collar at 3750 on the ridge separating the two glaciers Maliy Ala-Archinskiy West and Maliy Ala-Archinskiy. We go up the rocky ridge over a hundred meters, then there is possibility to go along the right rocks on the edge of the glacier. On a slight plane, we take foot on the left on the last detrital slopes of the ridge to reach the cairn indicative of the passage of the pass. Southeast Point 3970 and Pointe Nord-Ouest 3980: follow the rocky ridges on both sides.

Robsona Peak - 3983 - Bolshoi glacier Ala-Archinskiy, Ala-Archa, Kyrgyz Ala-Too: WGS 84: 42.42615 ° N 74.44565 ° E

Summit located in the circus of the Bolshoi glacier Ala-Archinskiy (Great Ala-Archa glacier) on the southwest flank

East Slope and North Ridge: From the former ski resort of Ala-Archa, go up the moraine south, passing right to the first rocky buttress. We follow for this the bed of a small glacial stream dry in the morning in general. From here we cross a moraine zone of 200 meters to reach as soon as possible the right edge of the Bolshoi glacier Ala-Archinskiy (uphill). The most convenient is to follow a pronounced and characteristic crest on the glacier extension of a nascent rocky rubble on the north face of the circus further south. This ridge avoids all cracked areas. For the Robsona Peak, we then go west to cross a zone of transverse crevasse, a plowed bergschrund, climb stony slopes to reach the pass located north of Robsona Peak, then the summit facing south. Descent by the same route

Keldy-Choku peak - 4000 - Bolshoi glacier Ala-Archinskiy, Ala-Archa, Kyrgyz Ala-Too. WGS 84: 42.42178 ° N 74.45509 ° E

Summit located in the circus of the Bolshoi glacier Ala-Archinskiy (Great Ala-Archa glacier) the most southerly.

Northeast Ridge: From the former ski resort Ala-Archa, go up the moraine south, passing right to the first rocky buttress. We follow for this the bed of a small glacial stream dry in the morning in general. From here we cross a moraine zone of 200 meters to reach as soon as possible the right edge of the Bolshoi glacier Ala-Archinskiy (uphill). The most convenient is to follow a pronounced and characteristic crest on the glacier extension of a nascent rocky rubble on the north face of the circus further south. This ridge avoids all cracked areas. For the Keldy-Choku Peak, we head east to reach the upper Bolshoi Ala-Archinskiy Glacier, avoiding a small crevasse area. From there full east we reach the pass at 3900 under the Keldy-Choku. Be careful a larger crevasse must be crossed but it is in some places relatively filled. From here join the antecime and the summit towards Southwest. Descent by the same route

Peak 4060 - Bolshoi glacier Ala-Archinskiy, Ala-Archa, Kyrgyz Ala-Too. WGS 84: 42.42514 ° N 74.46346 ° E

Summit located in the circus of the Bolshoi glacier Ala-Archinskiy (Great Ala-Archa glacier) the most easterly. It is on the first separation ridge between the two Bolshoi Ala-Archinskiy glaciers and Toktogul, where this ridge joins the main ridge of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too

South West side: From the former ski resort of Ala-Archa, go up the moraine to the south, passing to the right of the first rocky buttress. We follow for this the bed of a small glacial stream dry in the morning in general. From here we cross a moraine zone of 200 meters to reach as soon as possible the right edge of the Bolshoi glacier Ala-Archinskiy (uphill). Then along the base of the glacier on the moraine to the left (up) we reach the left edge of the glacier. A series of rocky outcrops can be followed along the right bank of the glacier. Rust remnants of former ski lifts are not forgotten. The general climbing line is curving prigressively towards the east to reach the upper glacier course around the pass under Keldy-Choku. We find ourselves under the slopes south of Peak 4060. All the passages are possible to reach the upper ridge, the most direct being practically under the summit, by lying rocks. The summit has two points which one climbs without problem, a third one further to 100 meters in the East is not part of the point of junction of the three edges, geographical place of the summit. Descent by the same route.

Alamedin canyon (figure 6)

The most popular part is the Salyk glacier (altougth at soviet times) second highest part of the range of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too with the beautiful Peak Kyrgyzstan at 4875 m. It also includes 1,000m high walls on summits range in similar elevation (4500 to 4875) and big climbing potential like in the Ak-Say. Approximately 30 routes are known there from easy to the very severe ones. The technical level required on most routes is however above 4a average in Russian quotation or D in UIAA quotation. Besides, there are many opportunities for new climbing routes, since it's less known than the Ak-Say area. Other glaciers in the Alamedin gorge, like the Altyn-Tor and Tuyuk-Tor are less popular. Elevation here is 500 meters. It’s rich in simple and moderate routes and many opportunities for new itineraries. The distance from the end of the road to the starting point of climbing is longer than the one in Ala-Archa gorge. It’s about 6-8 hours hike to Salyk and 7-9 hours to Tuyuk-Tor which is much longer in comparison with 3-4 hour Ak-Say “horse shoe”. This circumstance contributes to the lack of popularity among climbers.

There is also an intermediate valley between the Ala-Archa and Alamedin that of Chonkurchak which also has a beautiful glacial cirque on Baichechekei glacier under the North faces of Skriabina group. The Chonkurchak Valley communicates with the high altitude valley of Ak-Say by two passes located at 4200 with relatively easy access: the glacial passes of Baichechekei, south of Peak Baichechekei, and Fioletoviy, south of Uchitel Peak. Note that on the entrance to the Chonkurchak Valley, at the village of Tatyr a French team of climbers in 2005 had completed the full equipment of free climbing school, with a twenty training tracks at all levels (4 to 6b+). We must thank them, we expect that the climbing area there is popular and regularly maintained. The free climbing school is located at the exit of Tatyr at the first turn before the final climb to Chonkurchak.

In recent years the crossing of the high passes is often the goal of long mountaineering trekking and hiking. They always consist of East-West crossing of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too, sometimes from very remote valleys like Tuyuk and Kegety. For instance glacial crossings of the valley of Altyn-Tor (left tributary of the Alamedin) to the Tuyuk glacier (right tributary of the Ala-Archa), by the Altyn-Tor passes (4000, 2A) and Tuyuk-Zap. (4000, 2A). Many combinations are possible because the accessible passes are so many, but paradoxically these trekking too often neglect the rise of nearby peaks to which no doubt some are still remained free from any known ascent.

Access to the area. As Ala-Archa valley is accessible by road from Bishkek in 40-45 minutes. Public transport in the capital serve villages at the entrance to the valley. The road runs through the last kilometers to a former sanatorium and still running thermal center hot sulphurous waters, the starting point of a wide hiking trail. The valley is well frequented by shepherds with herds installed upstream during the summer season. The valley Chonkurchak is accessible by a road track. The valleys of Alamedin and Ala-Archa can also communicate at very high altitude by many passes and glacial roads more or less technical.

Cartography. Maps 1/50,000 k43-054-1 and 3 and 1/100,000 k43-054.

A.3.2) Western valleys like Sokuluk, Jalamysh (figures 6a and 6b)

The canyons are also situated on the northern slopes of central part of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too range next to well-known Ala-Archa and Alamedin. They are administrated by the Chuy oblast (river)

Sokuluk and Jalamysh canyons

These valleys are located to the west of Ala-Archa canyon (figure 5) in Sokuluk raion of Chuy oblast. The region had been climbed in 1950-s. According to some resources, the firs ascent to Cherniy Shpil 4216 m summit was done by the group under Azim Aitbaev and according to other resources the first was the group under V. V. Starodubzev in 1958. Around the same period a number of first ascents to various summits had been done in the area. However, there is no reliable information on ascents of that period. Quite a few summits of that region are supposed to be unclimbed. The upper reaches of the Sokuluk gorge have many interesting opportunities for climbing. There is good road from Bishkek to Sokuluk village. Further in the center of the village the smaller road turning to the south at the Orthodox Church goes for another 18 km. After the road ends it’s another 6-8 hours hike to the upper part of the gorge.

Some places at the bottom of the canyon are very difficult to walk through and one should climb the slopes. Another access to the Jalamysh Valley is also possible from the Adyghene valley, tributary of the main Ala-Archa valley. The crossing are free of snow on south of Adyghene or Aghitator.

Another access to upper reaches of Sokuluk canyon is through the Mynjilki pass (Area on northwest of Ala-Archa pass near the Myndjilki-Bashi and Ozernaya Peaks). The route from the end of the road in Ala-Archa canyon to the upper part of Sokuluk gorge over the pass takes 8-10 hours which is equal to the walking time in Sokuluk canyon but considerably easier.

The Jalamysh Valley is short and overlooks a glacial cirque adjoining that of Adyghene not located on the backbone of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too. All cirques terminals in Sokuluk watershed them are located on the backbone. Maximum elevation here is 4,500 m and average between 4100-4300. The rocks are formed by granites, sandstones and metamorphized conglomerates. The Sokuluk watershed is very wide: from East to West one can have at least 6 main cirques along the ridge, so several distinct valleys (Chontor to Tuyuk) proprer to exploration. One can be sure that not all have been visited so far !

Cartography. Maps 1/50,000 k43-053-1 and 3 and 1/100,000 k43-053.

The most western valleys Aksu, Kara-Balta

The Aksu valley is the last valley (or watershed in its entirety) that offers some substantial glacial cirques, with some peaks just above 4300. Few climbers went there, some possible ascents in 1980 and 1996 without further mention. So there is little information about the area except an expedition report in 1999 of a group of Moscow climbers led by Dimitriy Averyanov who made the ascent of the main passes on the headwaters of Djartash. It is not mentioned any climbing of summits on the north glacial cirques of the main tributary of the Aksu, from East to West: Djartash, Tuyuk, Boyrok, Keltor and Beltash. The altitude on the main ridge of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too ranges here between 4000 m and 4295 m (its higher peak). Also the valley of Djartash borders on Northeast the highest peaks of the North Sokuluk basin (Valley of Tuyuk tributary, Pic 4446).

In all likelihood, the Aksu valley is provided with a road up quite high at 2400 m altitude, thus facilitating its access with all base camps ranging from a day-half walk to a good complete day walk.

Kara-Balta Valley is essentially the great way of communication road to the south of Kyrgyzstan. Its high course offers mainly access on Jaïloos near the road-pass and on the south side. However, the valley can be used to approach areas more in the West like the upper cirques of Chong Kayingdy and Djardy-Kayingdy (Mazar-Ashuu Pass at 3880). These remote valleys of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too present the latest small glacial cirques of the backbone ridge with many peaks over 4200 m, somes over 4300 and two peaks more than 4400 m in altitude. This area is also an area of orographic interface with the Talas Ala Too range. Further west on more than a hundred kilometers of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too, bordering the Talas depression, on the Kazakh border, the mountains offer a panorama of Jaïloos that lower gradually towards the steppe.

Cartography. Maps 1/50,000 k43-053-1 and 3 ; 1/100,000 k43-052, k43-053.

A.3.3) Eastern valleys like Issyk-Ata, Byty, Tuyuk, Kegety and Chamsi (figures 6b and 6c)

Issyk-Ata canyon

It is located to the east of the Alamedin gorge and administrated by the Issykatinskiy raion of Chuy oblast (figure 6). The Issyk-Ata resort of sulphurous hot springs, at the mouth of the canyon is reachable by the road from Bishkek (75 km), including by public transport. A marshrutka starts at regular intervals from the small bus station near the Alamedin bazaar.

Starting point for climbing is 3-4 hours hike from the end of the road, on cattle trails either left or right bank. If we continues on a 8 hour hike it takes you to the upper reach of the canyon at the heart of the range, South East opposite to the North spur of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too, and the Salyk glacier area on the watershed of the Alamedin in the West, where peaks reach 4400m to 4875 m (valley of Mindjilki).

As a rule, most routes are combined rocks and ice either purely rocks. In 1950s-60s the region was very popular among climbers but there is not a lot of information on ascents. The region is rich in opportunities for both first ascents and new itineraries.

Alpine passes from Alamedin Side (West) to the Issyk-Ata one (East) are for instance the Prochenko pass (4200, 1B) between the valleys of Salyk (East) and Mindjilki (West), and the Pravda pass (4200 2A) between valleys Ashutor (East) and Mindjilki (West). The hiking passages of Alamedin pass (4028) and Issyk-Ata (3964) are also very convenient to organize a 6-8 days hike between the valleys of the Alamedin and Issyk-Ata.

The glacial cirque of the North Issyk-Ata is also quite wide enough to be rich in shorter glacial slopes. The ridge oscillaties in altitude between 4100 and 4400. The region is also full of two main opportunities, either for first ascents or for new routes.

Note a sector of particularly impressive granite cliffs, two kilometers upstream from the mouth of the Byty river, located Eastern flanks of Karauldy peak (Komparty Kirghiziy, 4488). It is 3 km wide of a particularly compact granite rock that develops into a multitude of towers and spurs. Rocks are naturally organized for a progressive onslaught of the highest peaks beyond 4000. The first cliffs start at the altitude of 2500 m, nearly 1,500 meters of potential development, and noone certainly has achieved any ascent !!

Cartography. Maps 1/50,000 k43-054-2 and 4 and 1/100,000 k43-054.

Trek in the valleys of Alamedin and Issyk-Ata.

Access. From Manas International Airport to Bishkek: Take the "marchrutka" 380 located in front of the taxi stand, the final destination is in front of the Raritet bookshop, at the corner of Chuy Prospect and Molodaya Gvardia (renamed Chash Gvardia). Price 50 soms. From Bishkek-Bazar of Osh to Alamedin Valley. To get there by public transport, the indications of the Lonely Planet guide indicate a departure from a marchrutka since the Bazaar of Alamedin located further east of the city of Bishkek. Request the destination Alamedin- Teplyu Klyuche, a thermal bathing facility for sulphurous baths, at the entrance to the valley at 1700m above sea level, and you will be told the number of the marchrutka to get there.

Once arrived at the spa, we are placed in front of the open grids placed on the main road which becomes a dirt track on the last kilometers before a last village of some houses. We are on the right bank, and at the spa of Teplyu Klyuche, there is a pedestrian bridge that spans the Alamedin, an impetuous river with a flow similar to that of the Arve in Chamonix, 20 meters wide.. Almost impossible to ford at this place, another bridge is located further upstream of the small village at the end of the road right bank.

Two paths go upstream, one on the right bank for 3-4 kilometers before a last jaïloo slightly high (50m above the watercourse) which abuts on a crumbled area along the stream. If you pass the bridge made of large metal bars assembled a little crooked, the path on the left bank follows the jaïloos 7 to 8 kilometers to the mouth of Kuturgansu where the path disappears in a clutter more and more dense juniper before meeting the stony trench of Kuturgansu (the next day) over a hundred meters crossing. The dry crossing of Kuturgansu from rock to rock does not pose a serious problem.

The path on the left bank is at first quite clear. However, near the mouth of Kuturgansu, the path becomes gradually more discreet sinking into a mixed maze of birch wood and juniper moor. All this ends with the rocky trench of Kuturgansu which blocks progress over a hundred meters with its main arm of 5 meters wide which does not pose a problem for a dry passage. Even before the mouth, casting glances on the opposite bank, I see clearly a path sufficiently traced above the landslides that joins the mouth of the Salyk, on the opposite right bank of the Alamedin.

Another clue to the presence of a good right bank path is the small colorful shed on the edge of the Salyk that can be seen just as well. In the meantime, if you are on the left bank a few kilometers upstream of the Salyk. It is necessary to cross the Kutrugansu, there is no longer any path worthy of the name, no more at the edge of Alamedin than higher up. It is the end of the jailoos on this bank, and the obligation to cross ford towards the right bank of the impetuous Alamedin. Happily, the waves have been reduced in size with two major tributaries less. Beyond Kuturgansu, the area is flat and the flow is steady. It suffices to choose an area with several branches dividing the current, and the fording is carried out at knee level in the water, but preferably in the morning when the low water is at a minimum.

On the right bank reached there appears to be a downstream ford on the Salyk of less importance than the Alamedin, but stronger than the Kuturgansu, because its waves come from an important glacial cirque on the flanks of the second highest peak from the Kyrgyz Ala-Too massif, the Kyrgyzstan Peak at 4875 m. Formerly in the days of Soviet mountaineering it was another sporadically frequented place in the Kyrgyz Ala-Too after the Ak-Say valley. It is clear that there remains little infrastructure, even the most rudimentary such as cairns to indicate the way.

On the right bank of the Alamedin we finally recognize a "good path" that follows the river without any cairns. Sometimes only the grass barely trodden by the animals can recognize the trace, and its size is invariably about thirty centimeters wide!

In 2-3 hours you reach the mouth of the Altyn-Tor (left tributary), under the imposing 4520 m summit. We live constantly on the right bank until we reach a few kilometers downstream the mouth of the Ashu-Tor. The latter is right angle of the course of the Alamedin on a steep climb of 300 meters in altitude. It is just before the Ashu-Tor that we finally meet the first cairn on the ascent of the valley. The foot of the climb in the valley of the Ashu-Tor is a good place to bivouac.

Beyond right in the valley of Alamedin begins an idyllic vision of the glacial terminal circus of Alamedin with its many glaciers and the Obélisque peak at 4496 m. A good day's walk up the valley of the Ashu-Tor and settle at the foot of Alamedin pass. Already the scenery of high mountain becomes more grandiose under the vertiginous West flanks of Kyrgyzstan Peak on nearly 2000 meters of metamorphic rock walls quite compact. There are some natural barrier lakes with milky blue waters. Around noon the first ancient moraine erects its dark and imposing circular rampart in the valley that is avoided on the left bank. A last retained lake is partially emptied and the right bank is reached again to approach the vast moraine zone several kilometers before even the glacier. The path is lost without more indications or some cairns offering contradictory directions. The main thing is to stay on the right bank in a progression upstream regular without too much going up or even down in the moraine zone which offers the most regular ground with a little grass. On site there is no water, so it is imperative to reach the edges of the glacier to benefit from the presence of bédières. To summarize during this course there are three lakes, the first is circumvented on the right bank, to join the old frontal moraine, which one bypasses on the left bank, as well as the second lake above. At the third lake, which has been partially dried up, we resume on the right bank to join the lateral moraines of the glacier as best we can. At the edge of the lower glacier areas you have to go 200 meters higher, following the circular course of the glacier at a distance, to reach a large plateau at the foot of the glacier with a good meltwater lake at 3800-3900. m. The square is located right in front of the Alamedin pass at the foot of the glacier tongue quite sweet at this place.

At the foot of Alamedin Pass, Morne Alameddin I and II, Puig Alamedin I and II: it is possible to travel all the ridge south of the big circus starting from the Alamedin pass to the south to the summit 4125 then to the west until at the top 4157. We reach the crest by its middle crossing the glacier in front of the bivouac by a small north face. It has a point of weakness with a gentle slope until the last final jump of 75 m at 45 °. The crest of rocks is strongly disintegrated and relatively rounded, with some sections of projections that are avoided on the south side by small rocky corridors. Other sections take the thin rim of snow that preface the north face. The rest of the time we cross the scree on a broad rounded ridge. We arrive at the two stone domes located west of the circus, whose altitude must be 3970 m, it is called Morne Alamedin I and II, distinguished by two cairns at their summit at a distance of 500 m. one of the other. We are back on our way to the East to join just as easily the summit 4125 which in reality is made up of two eminences 300 meters apart from each other. They are now Puig Alamedin I and II. At this point the ridge turns to a north-south axis where we reach the Alamedin pass a kilometer away. The ridge is sometimes full of snow, accumulating in a whimsical oval and overhanging cornices turned to the east and testifying to the infernal squalls of winter and spring, sometimes dry.

Normal Route of Issyk-Ata Peak 4382 meters above sea level: From the moraine lake of the Alamedin glacier, we first walk along the moraine towards the north-east until we reach a small corridor a few hundred meters long stuck between the moraine and flanks of Issyk-Ata Peak. The corridor ends and we climb 5 meters on the moraine for a northbound flanking towards the glacier occupying a small west-facing valley wedged between the Issyk-Ata Peak and the Lesgrafta Peak at 4600. In a few minutes to We hardly get a foot on the tongue of ice that is not very steep here, two hundred meters above the end. In reality, this glacier forms a right angle starting first of the Peak to the West and then to the South in its lowest part. The slopes of the glacier are weak The summit is reached along the left bank of the glacier, where it forms a large sloping channel. The summit is a vast perfect dome, bordered by a small antecedent to the southwest at 100 meters. The panorama of the surrounding mountains is magnificent. To the north Kyrgyzstan Peak 4875 is capped by a persistent cloud, but immediately to the east stands a huge pillar bleached by the snow equally impressive and formidable, the Zapad.Usichonka Peak (Usichonka-West) at 4759 m altitude a terrible beauty.

500 meters below on the rocky and rounded North ridge is an eminence which is now named Kara-Jolbars Peak (Black Panther) at an altitude of 4310 m and indicated by a cairn. The descent of Kara-Jolbars is made by regular steps oriented southwest towards a tongue of ice that abuts on the rock and which forms a long oval around a characteristic rocky gable a chouillas to the south.

Ascent of Alamedin pass 4028 m and bivouac in the southern Issyk-Ata valley. Short but monotonous climb in snow and fine scree before pass. A break at the top of the saddle at 4028 m is needed to locate the trace of the path of descent. It is diagonally north-east to join a small rounded spur overlooking a regular slope still oriented north-east. We quickly see a small plot around 3700 where flows a few streams, second flat from the Issyk-Ata pass, south. It is an ideal place for the bivouac where one finds traces of former occupants.

Ascent to Issyk-Ata Pass and Issyk-Ata Pass Peak. The gentle slope of scree rises to the north in the last flat before climbing to the pass. Some permanent snowfields precede the last dry slope before the pass, 70 meters of altitude difference but with no real trace of road, a scree of earth slightly unstable. The collar not really any indication, except for an old kettle placed on a rock on the side. The pass leads north on the Issyk-Ata glacier, and has a small rimaye 30 meters below, not open depending on the year. From there we cross northeast towards the small ridge that descends from the summit immediately east of the Issyk-Ata pass. The glacier is not cracked, but remains an area of clogged crevices before reaching the rounded ridge. We can put the bag and quickly go up the ridge to reach the summit named Issyk-Ata Pass Peak slightly above 4000. The northern ridge is safe, just a belly-patch area well plugged on the left side (ls). It offers a beautiful view of the dorsal ridge of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too on the section of Issyk-Ata Peak in the East to the Uslovaya and the Issyk-Ata-Bashi Peak (the head of the Issyk-Ata The glacial zone to the north is quite large and forms a circus more than 6-7 km wide.

Descent of the main valley of Issyk-Ata

From the ridge we always descend to the left bank of the glacier, first by a gently sloping rock bump and then always north at the base of the 3829 m peak, then in the east direction to reach the moraine edge. Further down it seems more convenient to take foot on the slopes herbus left of the moraine (direction of the descent). We reach then a small plain under the first moraine where flows the first torrent a little consequent that one can cross on the right bank. The descent continues at best in the moraine valley towards the confluence with the Mindjilki river. In the main valley, there is a first unmarked natural reservoir on the map, at the end of the alluvial plain. The indication of the map gives a fording towards the left bank, by several arms of water. In reality, crossings on the other side of the river are also possible by the many existing paths of herds of horses.

The well-marked left bank path follows the sandy slopes in succession of slight ascents and descents. It arrives downstream to a second alluvial plain ending in a second lake Ortu-Kul, well marked on the map. Due to the presence of horse remains along the path, care should be taken to set up the camp and the water intake to ensure that the water is not contaminated. The jaïloos here are extensive, but mostly restricted to the flat bottom of valley and the slopes bordering on a hundred meters.

It is easy to follow the left bank of the Issyk-Ata to reach the edge of the mouth of the Byty. A first clear climb on the left bank, at first sandy, allows to cross a small lock, then always down on the left bank in a gentle grassy slope in the direction of a slight tightening where the path disappears. Once again it is possible and perhaps even advisable to stay on the right bank because the passage is much better marked by a more correct path.

The crossing of a pier near the torrent is certainly painful but finally short to reach again a nascent path that joins the first bridge on the Issyk-Ata crossing on the right bank, 4 kilometers before the mouth of the Byty. After crossing the bridge to the right bank the path is not very clear, but there are traces of sheep encampment near the shore. Staying at 100 meters back from the bank we find a foot on the first slopes that sometimes disappears when crossing a few screes.

During this descent we can admire beautiful cliffs of reddish granite, very compact on a section of a few kilometers east of the Issyk-Ata Valley. The sector consists of a string of dizzying ridges overlooking successive turrets higher and higher, overlooking the peaks hidden in the clouds of Karauldy Peak at 4488. The path on the right bank becomes gradually clearer but must remain 100-200 in height crossing a moor of juniper more or less sparse. We reach the mouth of the Byty that must be crossed without difficulty to ford. We then follow the main path of the jaïloos of the shore 100-200 meters above the bottom of the valley, banks cluttered with impenetrable brush. The first dwellings of Issyk-Ata are in the distance. And the path crosses some small torrents resurgent on the eastern edge of the valley. The last resurgent source before the village is a local holy place, signaled by some prayer trees, just before joining the first pumping installations of sulphurous warm waters for the village's thermal establishments. We go back slightly, to cross a barrier and reach the outdoor heated pool in the village. The last descent on the left reaches the bridge over the Issyk-Ata River in the center of the village. This is the place where the marchrutka usually goes, which leaves regularly in expectation of full passengers. In 2016 it costs 120 soms with the backpack included. It takes an hour to reach Bishkek at the small bus station located near Alamedin Bazaar in the southeast of the city. From the bus station we reach by local minibus n ° 135 the bazaar of Osh for example for 10 soms.

The Byty Valley

The Byty is a right tributary of the North Issyk-Ata. This glacial valley oriented north is closed by a small circus culminating at 4200 m. Bordering the backbone of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too, this circus is quite extensive (2-3 kilometers) to include small interesting little known north faces and, not even climbed, out of easy access as the 4159 peak (overlooking the Malitchkogo-Byty glacier). The long north ridge separating the valleys Byty and North Issyk-Ata are also well endowed with fairly good rock slopes of higher altitudes (7 rocky peaks between 4350 and 4457). Granite walls of all beauties for instance, can be observed on the western flanks of the Pic Byty up to 4000. The Byty Valley communicates with easy passes to the upper glacial cirque of northern Issyk-Ata. Again the information available does indicate only hikes and climbs towards the passes along the valley, but not climbing peaks anymore, which can be regarded as not climb for most of them. Even if climbers find a cairn at the top, a reference to a second ascent remains essential, the previous having never been known.

Access to the headwaters of the Byty Valley from the spa village of Issyk-Ata is done in a good day's walk in ten hours. From Bishkek, it is the same road as Issyk-Ata village, which is the starting point of walk.

Cartography. Maps 1/50,000 k43-054-2 and 4 and 1/100,000 k43-054.

The valleys of Tuyuk-Kok-Moynok

The Tuyuk valley divides into two branches upstream both towards the South-East, the Tuyuk in the East and the Kok-Moynok at West. Both ends with glacial cirques on the backbone of the range, including that of Kok-Moynok which is the most important. The Kok-Moynok Valley like that of Byty immediately to the west, is flanked by beautiful rocky peaks fairly high (peak 4495 m). The Tuyuk valley ends with the Tuyuk Pass at 4009 m, a hiking trail that can be combined with the upper course of the Kegety valley further east for a short detour to the south Kegety valley and the rise to the Kegety pass at 3789 m. The Tuyuk valley seems to have road access until the mouth of Kok-Moynok. If this is confirmed then the base camps are in a good day's walk from the end of the road in the Tuyuk Valley. Again the information available does indicate only hikes and climbs towards the passes along the valley, but not climbing peaks anymore. Summits can be regarded as not climb for most of them.

The entrance to the Tuyuk Valley is a few kilometers downstream from the village of Issyk-Ata. The road trip is thus the same from Bishkek.

Cartography. Maps 1/50,000 k43-055-1 and 3 and 1/100,000 k43-055.

The valleys of Kegety, At-Djayloo and Keltor

The Kegety watershed essentially comprises three rivers: the Kegety at the center, Adjayloo west and Keltor east. Only the two circuses of Adjayloo and Keltor are actually in ice, towering 4200 m -4300 m. There is no information on any climb made before on the peaks along the ridge. These peaks have beautiful small ice slopes (200-400m) that can reach the AD difficulty. No doubt that climbers will be prime summiters on most of peaks.

A dusty road was ascending the course of Kegety from the plain to Kegety pass at the time of the Soviet Union, but it has been a long time it is not maintained. Now the trail stops a few kilometers upstream from the last village in the valley, just before the mouth of the Atdayloo at altitude 2200 m. In a day's walk, on can reach the Kegety pass following the old soviet track, still passable in mountain biking. The Keltor Valley has a small road track on his first kilometers up to the altitude of 1800 m. All terms of the roadways are generally in a good day's walk away from base camps for the ascents.

At the entrance of Kegety valley is the Kegety village reachable from the town of Tokmak. Regular buses run from Bishkek-Tokmak and Kegety.

Cartography. Maps 1/50,000 k43-055-1 and 3 and 1/100,000 k43-055.

Trek in the Tuyuk and Kegety valleys

Tuyuk Valley is a valley located southeast of Bishkek, between the main valleys of Issyk-Ata and Kegety. The Kegety Valley is a valley just east of Tuyuk Valley and directly west of Chamsi Valley. These two valleys drain the watersheds of the two main rivers Tuyuk and Kegety respectively. The main tributary of the Tuyuk River is the Këk-Moynok River and the Kegety River, Kel-Tor. It is important to mention these two respective tributaries as they are filled in valley bottom with consequent glacial cirques. As for the Kegety Valley, it is quite devoid of beautiful glaciers in its terminal circus, mainly composed of highly eroded metamorphic rocks. For the Tuyuk valley, the most important terminal circus develops in the West with some beautiful glaciers on the ridge in North face, but with a rock also quite disintegrated.

In this area of eastern Ala-Too Kyrgyz, the high crystalline core formed by the mountain groups around the Semenov Tian-Shanskogo Peak at 4895 m (Ak-Sai valleys, west of Alamedin, Golubina, Tuyuk-Su and Ala-Archa) or Kyrgyzstan Peak at 4875 m (Salyk Valley, East Alamedin, Karauldy Peak area).

To get there by public transport

The bus station located at 263 Jibek-Jolu Avenue (Silk Road, Bishkek East Bus Station) is where the "marchroutka" come from Tokmok village in the Chui Valley. It's a safe bet that this is also where we leave for the Tokmok destination and the village of Kant. From Tokmok we go to the village of Issyk-Ata by public minibus. In this way we cross the access road to the Tuyuk Valley through the village of Yorevka at the entrance of the Issyk-Ata valley - before turning south-southwest towards Issyk- Ata, turn right and take a south-facing track (Tuyuk signpost) to cross the Issyk-Ata River passing a small hamlet and still heading south into the Tuyuk Valley. Continue on a good track 5 or 6 km to the end of the road and a farm located at the confluence of Tuyuk and Këk-moynok.

If one comes from Bishkek then a more direct route goes further south between the first buttresses of Tien-Shan (villages of Gornaya Maevka, Chetendy). By a small collar we go down to the valley of Issyk-Ata. In this case, it must go down a few kilometers to reach the confluence with the Tuyuk Valley and the same track of 5 or 6 km.

From Tokmok one can also go by "marchroutka" to the village of Kegety at the entrance of the valley of the same name. For the return of the village of Kegety, or the confluence of the Tuyuk (south of Kyzyl-Aryk, Yorevka), it is a safe bet that there is easily a "marchroutka" for Tokmok. From the Tokmok bus station, there are frequent "marchroutkas" returning to Bishkek. From there a local "marchroutka" from Bishkek takes you back to the Osh Bazaar, for example.

Distances from the hike

In all around 58-60 km broken down into:
-23 km in the Tuyuk Valley from the end of the road to Tuyuk Pass, 4009
-4 km round trip on the ridge for the three 4000
- at Km 35 Col Kegety
- 2 km round trip Pic 3988 at Col Kegety
- Km 58 hitched up to the waterfall of the second most downstream Shakyratma River and left tributary of Kegety (stylized prayer tree)

Trek itinerary

At the end of the runway downstream from the course of the Tuyuk, one reaches the confluence of Tuyuk and Kek-moynok. The ranger's house is on the right bank of the Tuyuk. At the terminal the guard registers your passage on a notebook and asks you for your itinerary as a safety deposit. We pass the Tuyuk on the left bank by a tree trunk thrown on the river, then we run for a few hundred meters along the banks of pebbles to engage in a tighter valley that rises. The edge of the path becomes narrow with some traces of passage, in view of the recumbent grass, but does not require crossing the river fording. Towards the top of the slope is a slight slope where two assembled trunks form a precarious bridge to pass on the right bank two hours walk from the farm.

Beyond the route becomes more difficult, even if the route is obvious because there is more way. It is enough to follow the valley from one bank to the other, in the tightening of several kilometers upstream of the Tuyuk, with the quasi-obligation to ford the river several times. 5 or 6 crossings are required in moderately agitated water approximately 50-70 cm deep. Obviously we must choose his passage to avoid being carried away. But in this valley, glaciers being less numerous upstream, the flow of the river is quite comparable with the flow of a river in Vanoise (France) for example. We oscillate from one bank to another until the altitude of about 2200-2400 m, until the last spruce groves of Tien-Shan upstream. It is also the mouth of a small stream right bank. At this point on the left bank then begins, as if by miracle, a very good path that goes up for a hundred meters.

In reality, this path corresponds to a grazing area for animals from the neighboring valley and Kek-moynok pass at 2900 m. This valley immediately to the west is much more exploited than the lower part of the Tuyuk, provided in good summer (jaïlloo). The animals graze in this higher part of the Tuyuk as long as the slopes offer good pasture, further down the Tuyuk the gorges become more austere and the edges more steep. We soon meet a small hut and then going up the paths now clearly marked we reach the foot of Këk-moynok pass easily recognizable by its low height which makes it an ideal passage from one valley to another. At the foot of the pass, around 2600 m, slightly over-elevated on the right bank is a good shepherd's hut of about 6 or 7 places with a wood oven.

We go up the Tuyuk Valley, now shaped like a glacial trough along the right bank to beautiful small meadows at the edge of the torrent at about 2800 m above sea level, a good bivouac site. Then we go back without problem on the right bank of the Tuyuk discovering little by little a mountain scenery and higher mountains crowning the sides. We thus arrive at the first moraine which blocks the valley of a good hundred meters. The access is provided with a very good path clearly trampled by the horses and one arrives at the first tumbling of the sinkholes in the withdrawal of an old and very long glacier. We arrive quickly at an alluvial flat of medium size where still flows a thin stream. I advise you to take water because the suite is much dryer for a few kilometers. Sometimes a herd of a few ibex scatters towards the higher slopes at approach.

Above are the moraines of the eastern cirque of the Tuyuk valley, which is easily recognizable by a large red spur that descends from the east side of the valley. We follow the trail strewn with some cairns, sometimes disappearing a little in the weeds to reach always near the east flank the shoulder of the red spur. Before the red spur we can still meet a new herd of a dozen orchids because it is a place of passage to a rocky cirque gently embossed towards the East.

At the foot of the red rock spur and severely destroyed, contiguous to the main ridge of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too is a small flat area at the foot of a dry stone glacier, a bit dusty but with a thin d water between the screes under the North slope to 3700 m. There is also a little lower towards 3300 a small lake of ice retention also. It is a good place to camp before climbing to Tuyuk Pass. It is located at the foot of the wide ramp of a stone glacier that runs along the north face of the ridge and can easily reach the Tuyuk Pass at 4009 m. The uphill track to the pass is located on the left side (uphill) shoulder that marries the edge of the red spur.

The climb to the Tuyuk Pass is barely visible on the wide ramp (700-800 m wide) that rises regularly along the north faces and the ridge that oscillates around 4000 m. The track is lost a little, and in this case it is always necessary to shoot slightly to the left while going up towards the plane of the ramp located towards 3900 m. We meet some skulls of horses on the slope, which indicate that we are on the right route. The climb is quiet even if the path disappears on a good part of the ascent in the rock. In the flat we then head south uphill in the sloping scree to quickly cross a pretty well marked path that leaves crossing at mid-slope to the collar that rises very slightly a few hundred meters to the pass.

The climb is surprisingly easy. From the pass you can put the bag, then go across ridges to the east to climb three 4000 m, the first at 4130 m, now named Puig Pereval Tuyuk Est I at 4130 m, followed by a short peak 700 m further on at 4070 m, the Puig Pereval Tuyuk Est II and finally at 2 km the top side 4222 m which is the right angle of the ridge, named Puig Smeralda Tuyuk. The summit has some rocky points (two main ones, the highest in altitude at 4222 m) and a rocky dome. The crossing to these three 4000 m is easy, mainly made of craggy ridges with some more steep sections that are avoided by the south side in general. Back to the neck Tuyuk at 4009 m, the descent of the pass is done without much problem even if the path disappears quickly in the scree that can take the descent directly over 200 meters of elevation gaining access to a flat around 3700 m. Alas in the flat there is no water flush, so you still have to go down on the slopes to the left until about 3400 m in a grassy insertion of intense green in the middle of the dry slopes, at the foot of a large embankment 50 meters high. There miraculously comes out fresh water in the middle of a thick and soft grass, a haven of peace.

After a night on the bivouac, go down along the waterway with a few horse trails to reach the uphill track of Col Kegety to the south at 3100 m altitude. The climb to Col Kegety is dry, so we will take care to bring water to 3100 m before starting the climb. The climb cuts off all the turns and is quite steep finally in endless horse trails. We join a small desert circus of rocks destroyed under the pass to 3600 m. The last laces are grueling, but you have to wait patiently to reach the clean cut of the trail of the pass on the saddle at 3790 m.

We can put the bag to climb on the eastern summit of Kegety Pass at 3987 m altitude. Unnamed previously since 2017, it is now called Pic Pereval Kegety West. Another peak in the East is around 3900 also with a more unstable rock ridge. Crossings to the peaks do not present major problems just a few short steep slopes at 45% rock scree and short incursions on side veins. Further down a few laces of the track one can quickly climb on a promontory at 3750 meters which descends from the North-East ridge of Pereval Kegety West at 3987 which gives a beautiful view of the small valley lodged towards the North. is Kegety promontory at 3750 m.

Remember to bring water before climbing to the pass because it is only 5 km further down the slope of the North Slope that we finally found water, first in a very small weed triangle at the foot of a moraine with a thin trickle of water, but a better torrent 2km further is at least 7 km from the pass following the track. With Col Kegety, we find the civilization, with more frequentation by transhumance returning from summer pastures located in the valley south of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too bordering the North Slope of Karamanyok, and even beyond the depression of Suusamyr to the southwest.

The rest of the descent into the Kegety Valley is punctuated at the beginning of September by the numerous breaks to watch the herds passing by the return of the jaïloos. During one of these stops, you will see perhaps a weasel suractive current here and there around a group of rock where visibly it remains. From the motionless observer, she approaches a few meters from her semi-furtive, half-curious face. For the bivouac choose the mouth of a side river, like that of the river Djambulak a right tributary of Kegety at an altitude of 2537 m, because the water is cleaner there without presence of jaïloos upstream.

A short descent leads to the mouth of the river At-Djailoo, a left tributary of Kegety, where the first groves of Tien-Shan spruce appear at the edge of the stream. A nice place for a bivouac around a good fire. Then downstream we reach the post of Kegety Pass Barrier. Around the few houses scatter in a sparse clearing, a farmer pass on the slope, and the house smoke a good fire in the hearth of the kitchen. Further you will certainly have the chance or the opportunity to be hitched by a passing car to reach Tokmok. The traffic is frequent on the road, in particular not far from the second waterfall of the Shakyratma river (which moreover means waterfall in Kyrgyz).

Note the viability status of Kegety Pass: On the northern part of the Kegety Pass runway, it is practically practicable up to the pass, with a bit of pavement work to move the few blocks on the high part towards 3600 m even with a 4x4 Mitsubishi Delicat SUV for example (a very common model in Kyrgyzstan). The track is in good condition and seems reliable without any signs of collapse. On the southern side, on the other hand the track is strongly damaged on two or three sections at 3400 m of a hundred meters of length each, making the passage impossible for any vehicle without very big jobs to be envisaged.

Valleys of Chamsi-Tuyuk

The watershed of the river Chamsi also ends with several wonderful circuses on the following rivers from West to East: Tuyuk, Sektor, Karynkur (name to be confirmed) and Shamsi. Again altitudes regularly reach over 4300 and the highest point is located west of the Sektor circus at 4433 m. There are probably more than twenty virgin north faces. And it's a real surprise to find a expedition report in 2012 from the University of Cambridge whose participants are certainly not wrong about the destination. In 14 days they realized in the most western Tuyuk circus, climbs of 6 virgin peaks by 9 different routes (altitude ranging from 4150 m to 4380 m, difficulty F-AD). Apart from a post on the website of the American Alpine Journal, nothing is mentioned about all the other three glacial cirques eastward at least as interesting as for possible first ascents and explorations.

The Chamsi-Tuyuk Valley has a track back upstream to the altitude of 2200 m. What makes a day walking to base camp for climbs from the end of the road. At the entrance to the Chamsi valley is the village of the same name, accessible from the city of Tokmak. Regular buses run between Bishkek, Tokmak and Chamsi.

Cartography. Maps 1/50,000 k43-055-2 and 4 and 1/100,000 k43-055.

Eastern valleys of Kyrgyz Ala-Too

Inexorably the Kyrgyz Ala-Too approaches the great Lake Issyk-Kul. Yet this mountain does not tire of offering us some small jewels of ice housed on its backbone and almost at his last term. This is the case of the little-known Komorchek valley where the upper course is also bordered by peaks crown over 4200 m. Again there is no known ascents. The upper valley is not even accessible from its mouth on the impetuous Chuy River Canyon. One must apparently borrowed transhumance trails along the Chuy tributaries further upstream : the Taldybulak and Baylamtal. The canyon of the Chuy river is crossed by the highway Bishkek-Cholpon-Ata, Karakol. The starts of hike begin from the junction between this road and those of Kochkor-Naryn allowing at least to ford the bubbling waters of the Chuy.

Exploration atmosphere guaranteed, welcome to the Kyrgyz mountain summer pasture!

Cartography. Maps 1/100,000 k43-056.

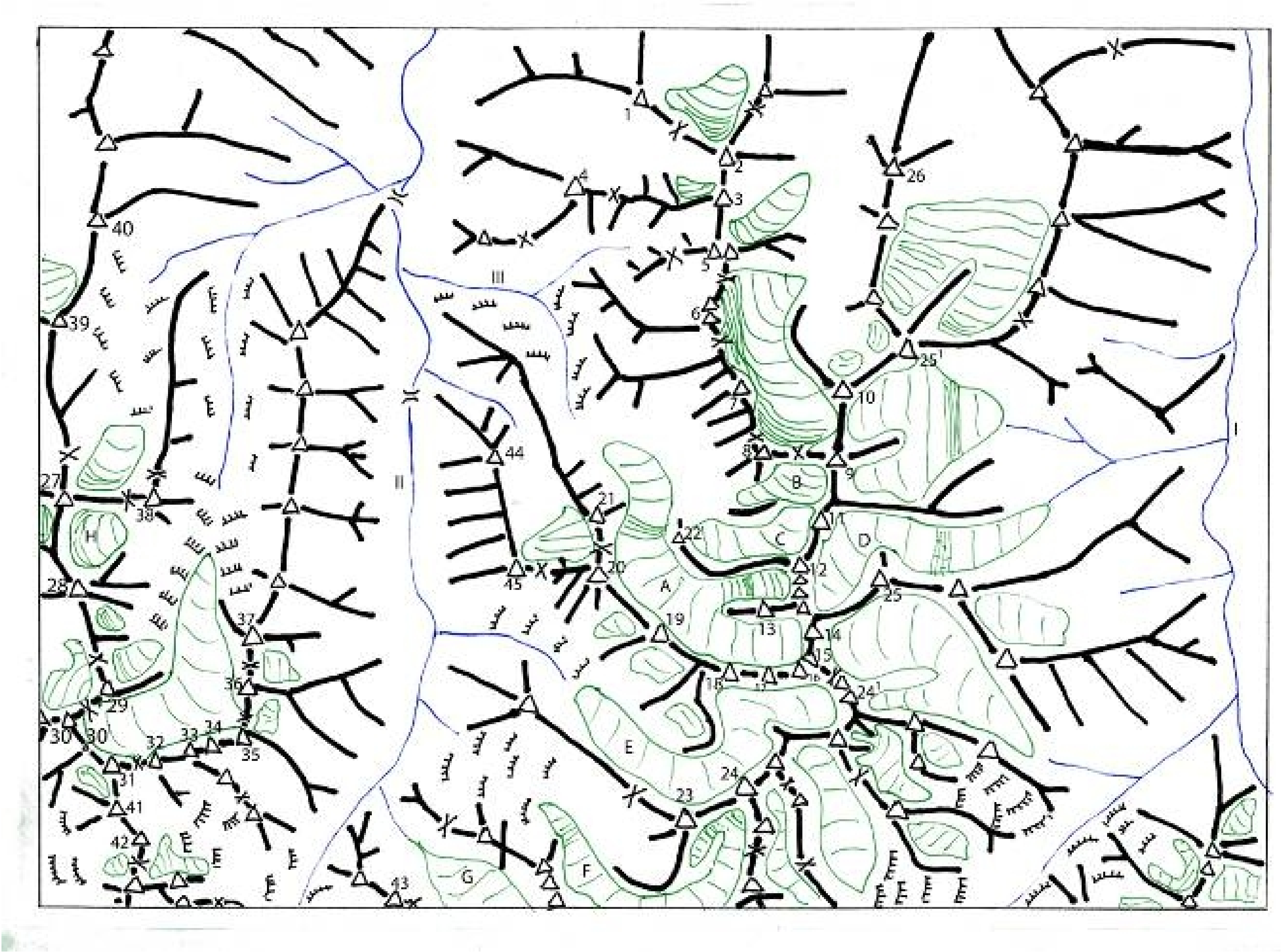

figure 5. Orographic map of Ala-Archa canyon, Kyrgyzskiy range

Peaks	Peaks (next)	Peaks (next)	Rivers	Glaciers
1.Pioneer, 4050	19.Ak-Too. 4612,4	34.Kirova, 4200	I.Alamedin	A.Ak-Say
2.Komsomolets, 4134	20.Teke-Tor.4442	35.Smena, 4110,7	II.Ala-Archa	B.Nauka
3.Krasnaia Gorka, 3900	21.Box. 4200	36.Savatar-Bashi, 3958	III.Ak-Sai	C.Uchitel
4.Sokolinaia (3600)	22.Ratsek 3950	37.Shubina, 3909	IV.Adyghene	D.Djindy-Suu
5.Pavlika Morosova,4200	23.Griaznova, 4424,5	38.Elektro, 4078,5		E.Torkaragai
6.Olega Koshevogo, 4330	24.Altyn-Tor-Bashi, 4400	39.Aghitator, 4244		F.Tuiuk-Suu
7.Uchitel-*Master, 4527	24^1. Kara-Tor	40.Pic 4060		G.Golubina
8.Baichichikey-*Crocus, 4515	25.Lermontova, 4498,5	41.Samoliot, 4109		H.Panfilova
9.Skriabina, 4650	26.Frunze,4245	42.Ozernyi, 4044		IAdyghene
10.Palatka, 4499,5	27.Adyghene, 4393,4	43.Ala-Archa, 4088		K.Korona
11.Semionova Tian-Shanskogo, 4895	28.Panfilova, 4257	44.Znachkist, 3786		
12.Korona. 4855	29.Lyet VLKSM, 4216	45.Serghei Gherasimov, 4314		
13.Izyskatel, 4570	30.Spartakiada, 4220			
14.Dvurogaia, 4380	31.Uzlovaia, 4194,9			
15.Kosmonavtov, 4600	32.Zapadnaia, 4198,9			
16.Bailian-Bashi, 4700	33.15 Lyet Kirghizstana, 4200			
17.Simaghina. 4400				
18.Svobodnaia Korea, 4740				

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* translation

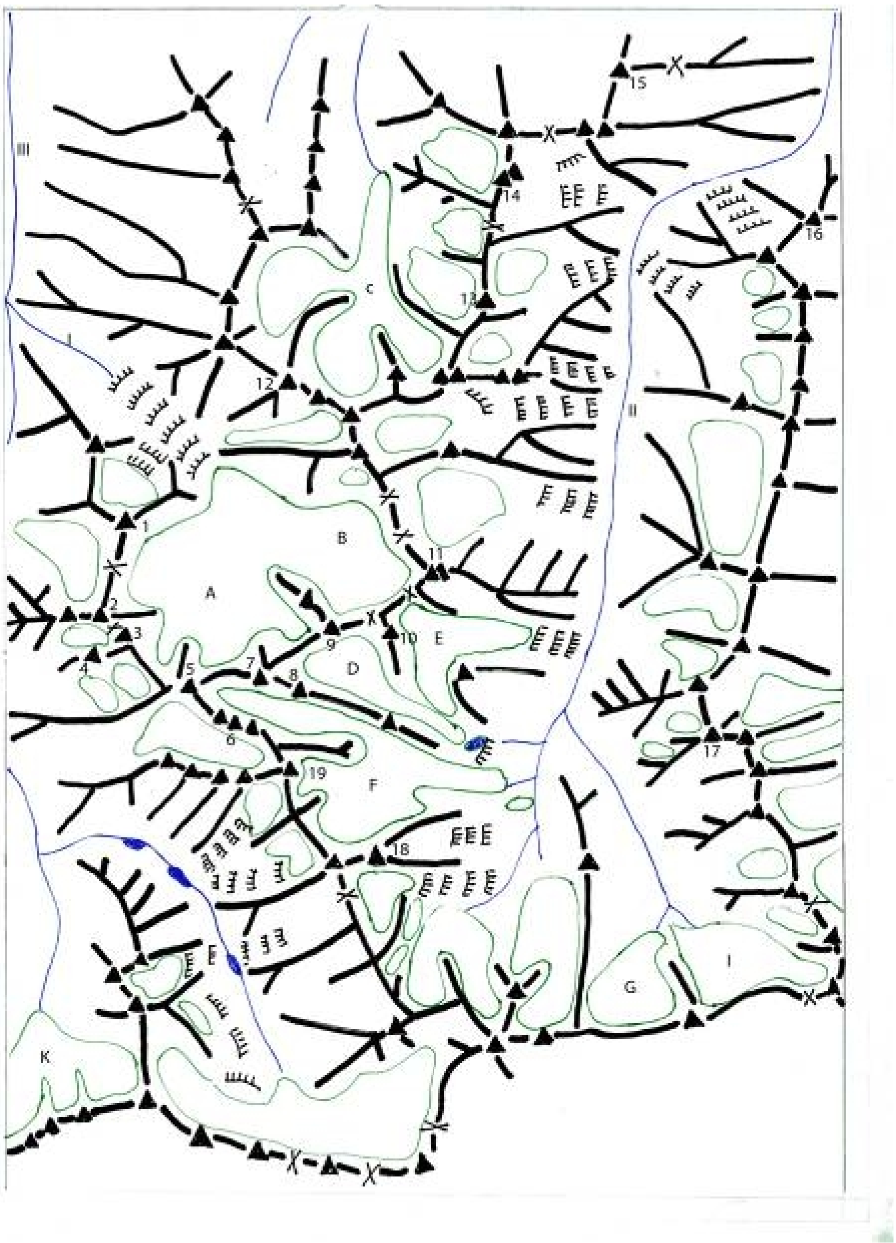


figure 6a. Orographic map of interfluve Alamedin-Issyk-Ata, Kyrgyzskiy range

Peaks	**Peaks (next)**	**Glaciers**	**Rivers**
1.Severnaia Alamedinskaia Stena, 4519	13.Burevestnik, 4450	A.Salyk Zapadnii (Ouest)	I.Salyk
2.Zapadnaia Alamedinskaia Stena, 4720	14.Kompartii Kirghizii, 4464	B.Salyk Vostochnii (Est)	II.Issyk Ata
3.Alamedinskaia Stena Tsentralnaia, 4760	15.Koneva, 4308	C.Kashka-Suu	III.Alamedin
4.Bolshevik, 4402	16.Botvei, 4009.6	D.Protsenko severnii (Nord)	
5.Kirghizstan, 4840 (4876 parfois)	17.Dj. Bokonbaeva 4385	E.Iskra	
6.Alamedinskie Zubia, 4600	18.Svobody, 4506	F.Protsenko Yujnii (Sud)	
7.Usechenka zapadnay, 4759	19.Pastuhova, 4815	G.Issykatinskiy Zapadnii (Ouest)	
8.Usechenka vostochnaya, 4759		I.Issykatinskiy Vostochnii (Est)	
9.Salyk Bashi, 4500		K.Tuiuk-Tor	
10.Fizmatovets, 4450			
11.Iskra, 4579.5			
12.Spartak , 4550			

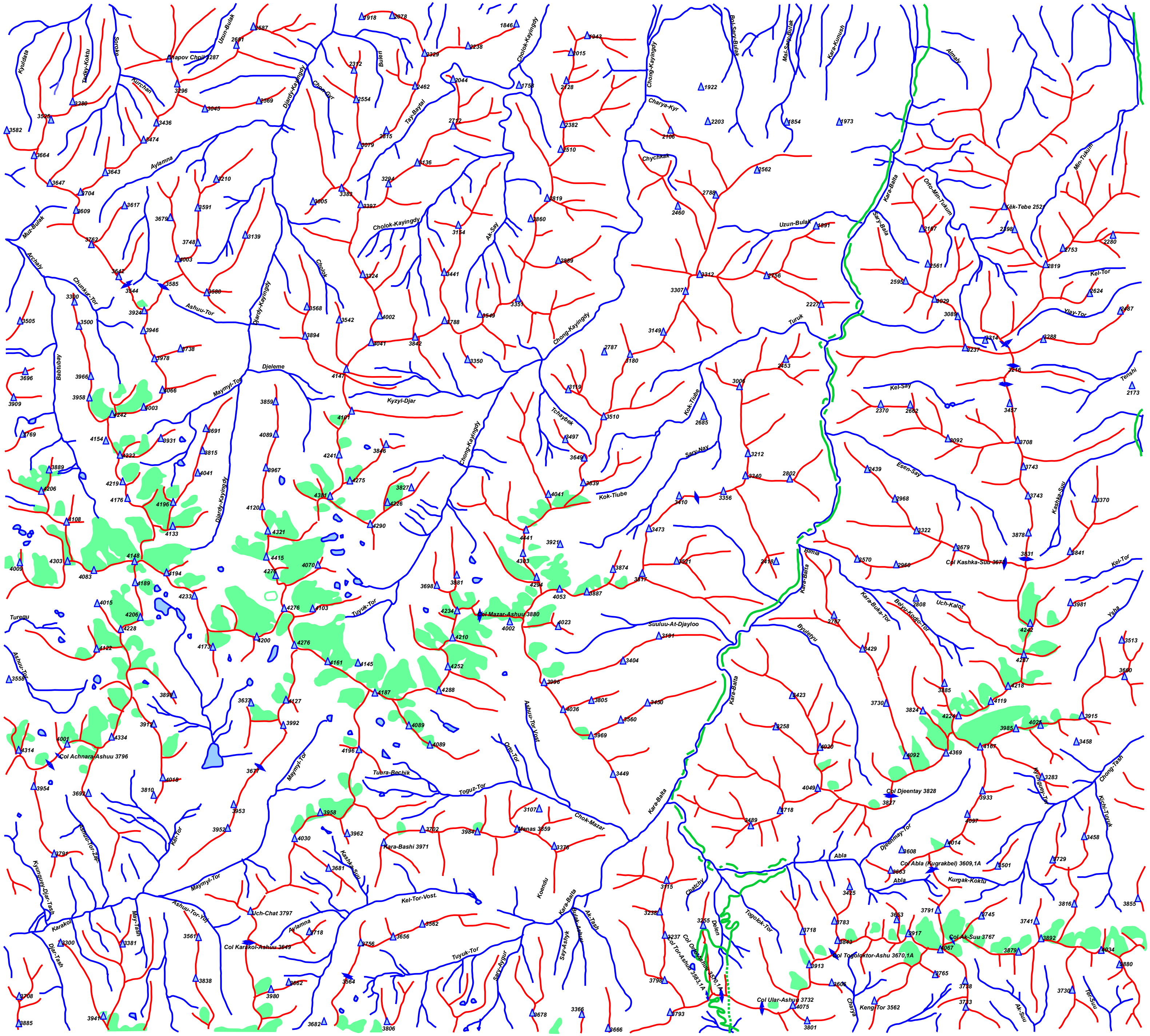

Kyurdara
Tadky-Koktu
Soroka
Kurchan
Uzun-Bulak
Shapov Choil 3287
Djerdy-Kayingdy
Chon-Gul
Buleri
Tala-Baytal
Cholok-Kayingdy
Chong-Kayingdy
Charya-Kyr
Bel-Sary-Bulak
Min-Sary-Bulak
Kara-Kunush
Almaly
Aylamna
Muz-Bulak
Archaly
Chunkur-Tor
Ashuu-Tor
Cholok
Ak-Say
Chychkak
Uzun-Bulak
Kara-Balta
Sary-Bala
Orto-Min-Tukum
Min-Tukum
Kök-Tebe 2521
Kel-Tor
Ylay-Tor
Turuk
Babtubay
Djeleme
Maymyl-Tor
Kyzyl-Djar
Tchaybek
Kok-Tiube
Sary-Nay
Kel-Say
Tensiz
Esen-Say
Kashka-Suu
Col Kashka-Suu
Bimia
Kara-Buka-Tor
Belyk-Kogur-Tor
Uch-Kalot
Ystia
Byuketyu
Turegu
Ashuu-Tor
Tuyuk-Tor
Col Mazar-Ashuu 3880
Suuluu-At-Djayloo
Ashuu-Tor-Vost
Orto-Tor
Col Achnara-Ashuu 3796
Tuura-Bechik
Toguz-Tor
Chok-Mazar
Manas 3859
Kara-Bashi 3971
Col Djeentay 3828
Djeentay-Tor
Chong-Tash
Kichi-Turuk
Karakol
Ashuu-Tor-Zap
Kyungyuy-Djar-Tash
Djar-Tash
May-Tash
Ashuu-Tor-Vyl
Uch-Chat 3797
Maymyl-Tor
Aylamna
Col Karakol-Ashuu 3649
Kashka-Suu
Kel-Tor-Vost.
Tuyuk-Tor
Sary-Aygyr
Koendu
Kara-Balta
Say-Ashyk
Ak-Tash
Chatchy
Col Orto-Ashuu
Col Tor-Ashuu 3583,1A
Togolok-Tor
Col Ular-Ashuu 3732
Charya
Keng-Tor 3562
Abla
Col Abla (Kugrakbel) 3609,1A
Kurgak-Koktu
Col Togoloktor-Ashu 3670,1A
Col Ak-Suu 3767
Ak-Suu
Ter-Suu

figure 6b. Orographic map of occidental part of Kyrgyz Ala-Too range

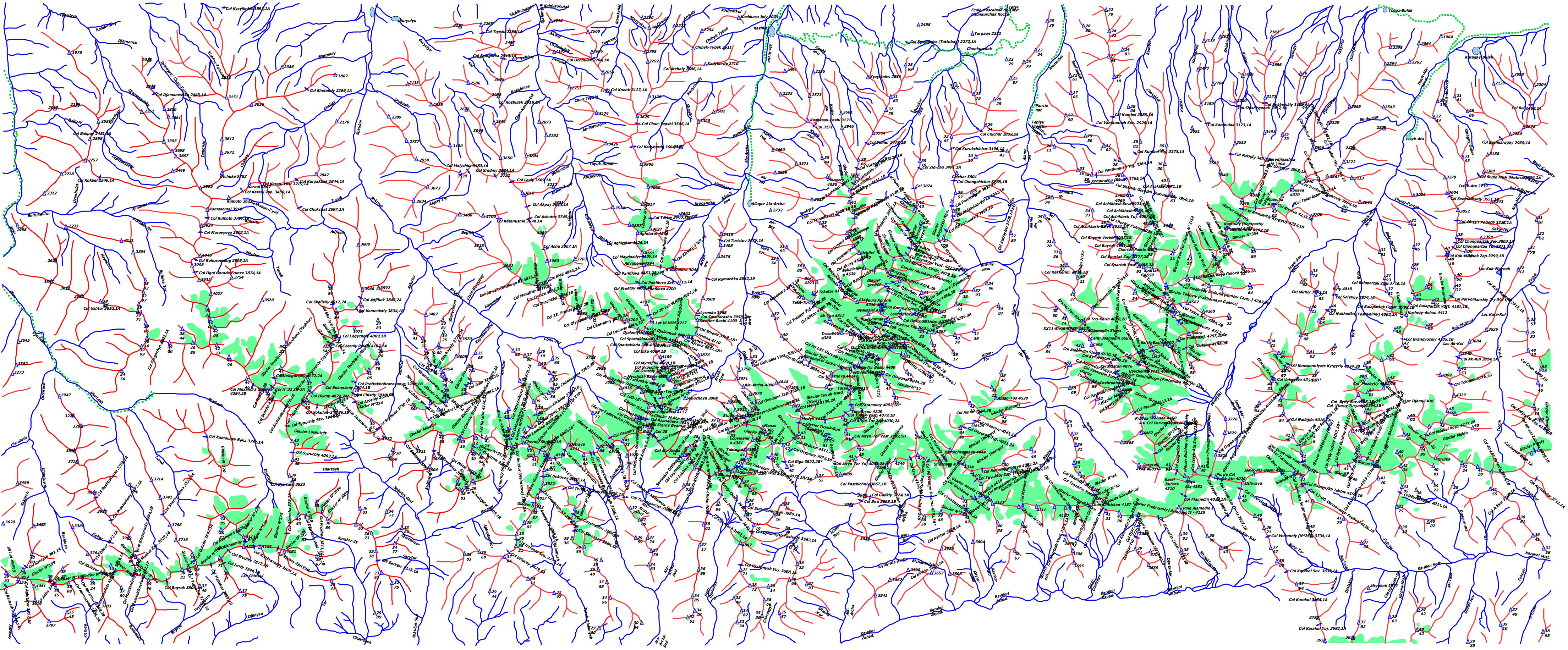


figure 6c. Orographic map of central part of Kyrgyz Ala-Too range

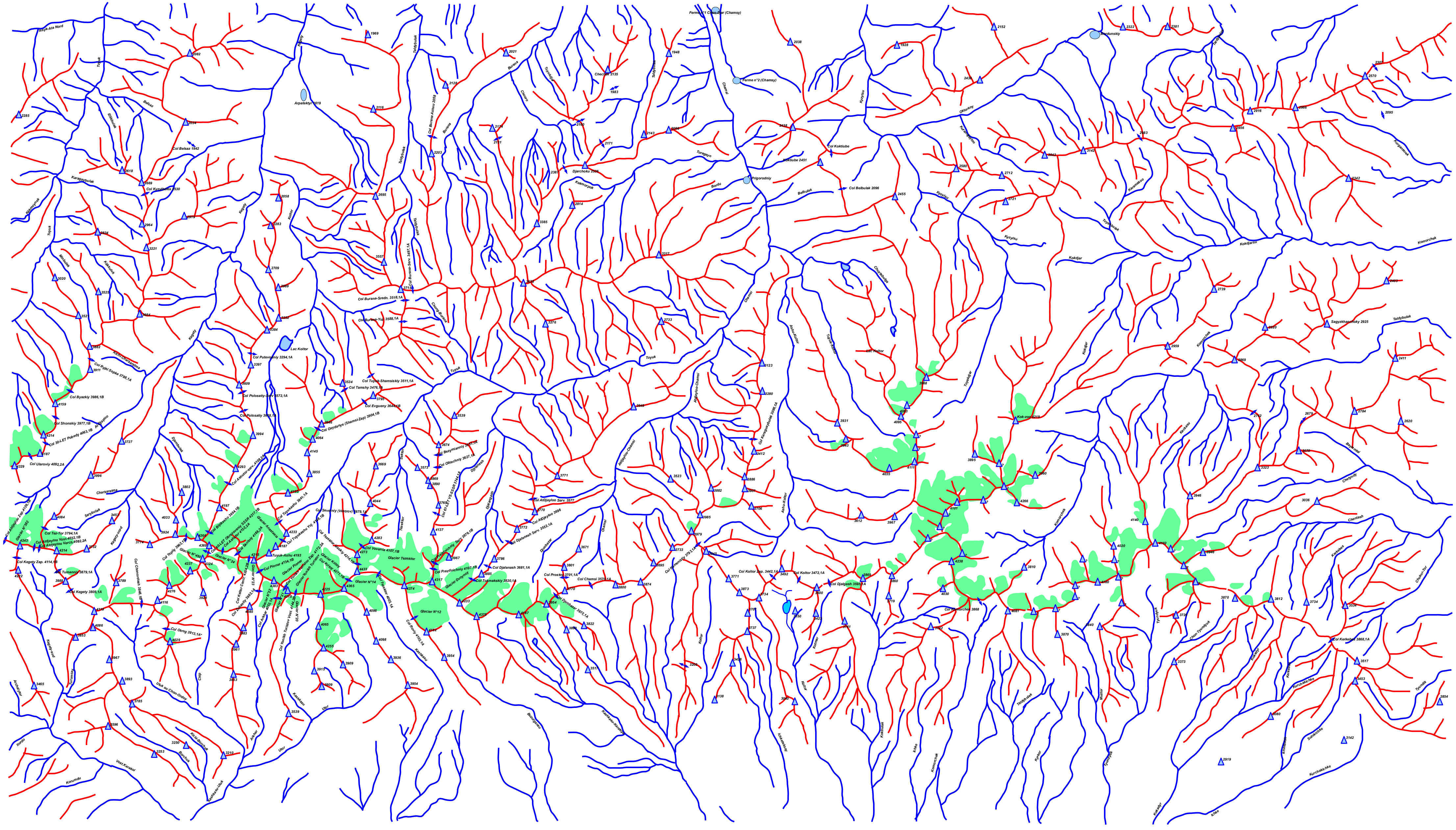

Ferme n°1 Col.-Dor (Chamsy)
Ferme n°2 (Chamsy)
Prigorodniy
Arpatektyr 1819
Col Belsaz 1942
Col Koktiube
Col Belbulak 2096
Lac Koltor
Col Putevodniy 3294,1A
Col Polosatiy 3692,1B
Col Evgueny 3644,1B
Col Tamshy 3476,1B
Col Burana-Sredn. 3518,1A
Col Shonskiy 3977,1B
Col Byazkiy 3986,1B
Col Ularoviy 4092,2A
Col Toz-Tor 3794,1A
Col Kegety Zap. 4114,1B
Col Kegety 3805,1A
Col Tumanniy 3879,1A
Col Orpig 3913,1A*
Col AtDjayloo Serv. 3577
Col Prosto 3701,1A
Col Chamsy 3578,1A
Col Koltor 3472,1A
Col Djalgash 3585,1A
Col Djalanash 3681,1A
Col Tokmakskiy 3620,1A
Col Prazdnichniy 4107,1B
Col Yoventa 4107,1B
Col Korkebee 3868,1A
Glacier N°24
Glacier N°13
Glacier N°14
Glacier Tuyuk-Ashu 4193
Glacier Tezektor
Glacier Aksay
Glacier Koltor
Kok-zoo 4219
Sagyzkhanskiy 2925
Toyuk
Kegety
Koltor
Chamsy
Burana
Kokdjar
Kokmoinok
Taldybulak
Djalanash
Ukor
Kurchak
Kutmaldy

figure 6d. Orographic map of oriental part of Kyrgyz Ala-Too range

A.4. Western Kokshaal-Too (figures 7-8, pictures 39-45)

Western part of one of the most extensive and highest ranges in the Tien-Shan stretching almost for 500 km is really one of the best and interesting places for climbing. It is the Western Kokshal-Too. The administration of the region is divided by two raions. Territory to the east of Kotur canyon is Jetyoguzskiy raion of the Issikkulskay oblast and to the west is Atbashinskiy raion of the Narynskaya oblast. Speaking geographically the region is rather the western end of the highest part of the Kokshal-Too range than the very western part of the whole range. Altitude here exceeds 5,000m. It's located to the center part of the range. Drawing imaginary line from the very center of lake Issik-Kul to the south on the intersection with Kokshal-Too range we can define the location of the Western Kokshal-Too. It borders with China. The region stretches from longitude 78 east to longitude 79.15' west for almost 100 km. The axial part of the ridge here stretches in the exact latitudinal direction. Glaciers fill up the canyons meridionally spreading from the axial part. Glaciation prevails at quite large territory of the area. If glaciers slide down of the slopes they stay on the remains of ancient peneplain, on some tops of it. There are about 40 glaciers in the area. The biggest one is the Chon-Turasu and stretches for almost 18 km. Glacier bottom is rather flat what makes it easier to walk there. Altitude reaches up to 5,982 m (Dankov peak). Elevation is 1,500m. A lot of walls are 1,000m high. Glaciers in the canyons are located at the altitude of 4,000-4,500 m. The climate here is typical for Central Asia, i.e. acutely continental. The region is one of the most rigorous ones and called the Arctic of Kyrgyzstan for its severe winters when temperature drops to -60°C. Summer here lasts only for one month – August and it is the best time for climbing. Thunderstorms are very common for May – July. September has very stable weather however cold one and snow doesn't melt. The average temperature of July is +4°C, of August is +6°C and of September is +2°C. The annual precipitation is 420mm. Bottom of gorges and watersheds is alpine desert located on the ancient peneplain* surface with slope swamps in some areas.

> *peneplain – is a low-relief plain representing the final stage of fluvial erosion of mountains during times of extended tectonic stability.

The area lacks wood or bushes. Fauna is represented by mountainous sheep Marco Polo, Siberian goat "Teke", wolves, foxes, various rodents, birds including many birds of prey. Some nomads camps are found in the bottoms of valleys breeding sheep, yaks, horses and camels.

The region is not very well studied and there are few reasons for this. The main factors are severe climate, sparse natural recourses, remoteness, inaccessibility and border with China. For many years the region was closed for visitors for the reason of complex relations of the Soviet Union with China. First description of the region was done in 1869 by the Russian geographer A.V. Kaulbars. Later on, the region was visited by few researchers. The first ascent was made by the expedition under A.A. Letavet in 1934. It was an ascent to the summit 4,900m in the Chon-Turasu glacier which then was named Maron peak after one of the climbers. The first mountaineering expedition in 1938 was unsuccessful because of the bad weather. The next expedition took place only in 30 years in 1969. Participants of the expedition were from Moscow region and Kaliningrad city under the leadership of A. Korsun. Six first ascents in the Chon-Turasu glacier were made during that expedition. Afterwards, during the pre-perestroika time number of expeditions took place in 1972, 1980 and 1985. That time most of the summitted peaks were in the eastern part (the Chon-Turasu glacier) and in the western part (Kyzyl-Asker peak) of the region. Other areas were still unexplored due to the inaccessibility. The new stage of exploration started in 1993 when M. Lebedev organized big expedition of climbers from vicinities of Moscow and 1995 A.Korsun organized one of climbers from the West. The destination was again the region of Chon-Turasu glacier. Subsequent period was marked by the foreign expeditions to the Western Kokshal-Too with climbers from the USA and the UK. 1996 was the year when the first English-American expedition took place under Lindsey Griffin and Christian Beckwise. They reconnoitred the region and summitted several peaks in the western part. In 1997 there were two expeditions to the area. Those were again English-American. One was to the same region under leadership of Lindsey and Christian and another one to the Chon-Turasu glacier was organized by ISM (International Mountaineering School) under Pat Littlejohn. The latter one with Pat discovered number of new routes and flew around the area by helicopter in order to prepare for the future expeditions. The second ISM expedition to Kokshal took place in 1998 but that time to the central region to the unexplored Kotur glacier. However because of the heavy fall of snow during first three days of expedition (up to one meter high) it was possible to explore only bottom part of the Kotur glacier and only three successful ascents were done. Much more successful was ISM expedition to the same glacier in 1999. Six first ascents were done in the upper part of the Kotur glacier. In total there were 8 unclimbed peaks of the glacier but bad weather interfered and didn't let to summit the rest 2 of 8. The expedition explored the canyons east of Kotur gorge in order to find out access ways for the subsequent expeditions. By now most of the canyons are more or less explored as opposed to the canyons Karagerme, Kyzylunet, Kichi-Turasu located in the central part of the range east of the Chon-Turasu gorge.

Here is a brief overview of the different expeditions over the last thirty years :

1985 - Kazakhstan, Kazbek Valiev climbing the west face of Kyzyl Asker
1996-1997 - United States - Lindsey Griffin and Christian Beckwise: no record to date
1997 - ISM and Pat Littlejohn: Chon Turasu glacier
1998 - ISM and Pat Littlejohn: Kotur glacier, 3 summits reached
1999 - ISM and Pat Littlejohn: Kotur glacier, 6 summits reached
2001 - ISM and Pat Littlejohn: Malitskovo glacier

2005 - Great Britain - Es Tressider (see American Alpine Journal)
- Kyzyl Asker, second climb
- "Great Wall of China", Ocher wall, new roads, Panfilovski Division

2005 - United States - Molly Loomis (see American Alpine Journal)
- Peak Yurnos, second ascent

2006 - United States - Mike Libecki (see American Alpine Journal)
- Chinese side: Tombstone Tower, no precise location

2006- New Zealand, Great Britain - Paul Knott - (see American Alpine Journal)
- Fersmana Glacier

2007 - ISM and Pat Littlejohn
- Navlikin and Malitskovo glaciers, first climbs

2007 - Belarus - Nikolay Bandalet

2007 - Slovenia - Kyzyl Asker
- Peak Fers III
- Peak Byeliy 5,697m
- Peak Sentinel
- Peak Kyzyl-Asker 5842 m

2008 - South Africa - Malitskovo glaciers - Ulrike Kieffer

- Peak 4,828m (Peak Sigma, first ascent)
- Peak 5,055m (Peak Hidden, first ascent)
- Peak 4,975m (Dome of snow, first ascent)
- 5,156m, Peak Obzhorniy (already climbed)
- 4,850m, Peak Metel (already climbed)

- 4,656m, Peak Macciato (already climbed)
- 4,578m, Peak Alpini (already climbed)

2008 - Great Britain - Oxford University Mountaineering Club - Bolgandy Valley
- Peak Margesson (4,526m)
- Nantucket Peak (4,600m)
- Peak St George (4,496m)
- Peak Shining Tor (4.607m)
- Peak Jessica and Jeremy (4,600m)
- Peak 4,705m
- Peak Stapledon (4,600m)
- Peak Heliya (4,660m)
- Peak Sally

- 2009 - Pat Littlejohn - Kotur Glacier
- Peak Judith-Brian 5050 m, already climbed in 1999 by the east face, first on the southern edge
- Peak Pyramida 5140 m, Northwest ridge, already climbed in 1999

2009: Poland - Rafal Zajac, PZA - Kotur glacier
- Peak Plaza (4,912m), northwest face
- Peak Granitsa (5,370m), north face

2010: Franco-Suisse: Kyzyl-Asker glacier
- Peak Vernyi, 5250, track, No Shachlik (700m, 6c A3 M6), by Maria Gal Julien Christe, Alexandre Gal, Jérôme Gottofrey

2010 - Poland - Djirnagaktu Valley - Tomasz Owerko, Galka, Norwecki and Picheta (West of the Kyzyl Asker glacier basin) 12 summits climbed
- Peak Sputnik Hope (4,371m) T. Owerko
- Long Spire Peak (4,564m). T.Owerko
- Peak Night Butterfly (5,056m). South ridge T. Owerko
- Peak Raven 5,370m (The summit was named.) Galka and Picheta, North face 700m
- Peak Rock Horse (5,186m, west ridge, Norwecki-Picheta)
- Butterfly's Leg (4.865m, West ridge, Galka-Norwecki-Picheta, a cairn already on the summit)
- Peak Krakow (4,841m, Galka-Owerko-Picheta)
- Pyramid peak (4,812m)
- Peak Chair (4,786m)
- Peak Five Keeps (4,711m, Picheta, thought to have been climbed before)
- Peak Pony (4,705m, south corridor, Owerka-Picheta)
- Peak Butterfly Effect (4,602m, west ridge, Galka)
- Col Uigur (4,631m)
- Peak 5,102m and Peak Uigur (4,979m)

2010 - Great Britain - Gareth Mothram, Martin Jones, Edward Lemon, Jacob Wrathall - Glacier Sarychat
- Peak Lyell (4,864m GPS)
- Peak Thornes (5,014m GPS- 4,989m)
- Peak Katherine (4,840m GPS)
- Peak Fers III (5,210m)
- Peak Sylvia (4,910m)
- Peak Hilarie (4,928m)

2011 - German Expedition Kitan, Ines Papert, Kitan area south of Kyzyl-Asker

- "Great Wall of China", 5,186m "Border Control" track (13 relays, ED2, WI5 mixed Scottish VII/VIII, A1, Robertson-Tresidder, 2004)
- "Great Wall of China", 5,186m, track "Quantum of Solace" (14 relays, WI7 +, M7).

2011 - United States - Mike Libecki, Expedition Club Alpin Americain
- Peak Byeliy (5,697m), attempt by the Southwest face, China

2011 - Poland - Kyzyl-Asker glacier
- Peak Vernyi (5,250m, north summit, Cztery Pory Roku, Four Seasons, M8-1 rest point, WI5, UIAA IV +),
- Peak Unmarked Soldier (5,352m, only mentioned)
- Peak Panfilovski Division (5,290m, only mentioned).

2011 - Slovenia, Glacier Kotur
- Alpini Peak (4,578m, Kotur Glacier), on the east side of the entrance to the Kotur Glacier,
- Peak Lvitsa (4,631m, Glacier Kotur), continued south to Peak Alpini
- Peak Lyev (4,710m, Glacier Kotur)
- Peak Obzhorny (5,156m, Glacier Nalivkin)
- Peak Metel (4,850m, Glacier Nalivkin)
- Peak Jjin (5,136m Glacier Kotur)
- Peak Kashmar Apa (5,015m, Nalivkin Glacier),
- Greta Peak (4.725m, Nalivkin Glacier),
- Peak Lencka (4,621m, Glacier Nalivkin),
- Peak Macciato (4656m, Nalivkin Glacier),
- Peak Oleg 4,859m (Glacier Nalivkin, new road "dubbed Arbuz", 450m, 60 °),
- Peak Byeliy 5,697m

2011 - Scotland - Gareth Mottram: map K43-108
- Peak Eggemenduluk (5,210m, northeast face and north ridge, ED1, TD, Gareth Mottram),
- Peak Lyell (4.864m, East flank, Ambitious but Rubbish, 600m, Scottish II/III, Gareth Mottram)
- Georgina Peak (4.631m, east flank, PD-, 41 ° 06 'N, 77 ° 31' E, Gareth Mottram)
- Peak Annika (4,685m, east flank, PD-, 41 ° 06 'N, 77 ° 31' E, Gareth Mottram)

2014 - Netherlands - Arjan de Leeuw, Glacier Grigorieva
- Peak Moker 5681, close to Peak Cosmos 5940, Circus Terminal of Grigorieva West Branch
- Peak September 5161, Border Sino Kyrgyz, Circus Terminal of Grigorieva East Branch
- Peak Dankova 5982 West Ridge

2014 - New Zealand, Great Britain - Paul Knott - Alpine Club - Glacier Palgov
- Peak Palgov, 5602, first ascent, west face and north ridge
- Peak 5190 - East facing
- Peak 4973

2015 - GB-Sweden - Mike Abrahamsson, Harry McGhie, Heather Swift, and Emily Ward - Expedition on Grigoriev Glacier - West Branch
- Attempt on the Peak Cosmos 5940 - North Face
- Peak 5190 - face East - second climb the same year, a month later

2015 - Russia - Dmitry Golovchenko - Glacier Sarychat and Fersmana
- Peak Sedoy Strazh (Byeliy East, 5481)
- Peak Tashgul 4585m
- Peak Gorin 5020m
- Peak Pamyati Druzey 4990m

- Peak Novey 4978m
- Peak Chudo (Miracle) 5100
- Peak Prozrachnaya (Transparent) 5070
- Peak Granitsa 5370 (second ascent by the Polish route)

Access. The western part of the region located west of the Sarychat gorge can be accessed by the road form Naryn town via Akmuz village and Kindyk pass in the upper reaches of the Mudryum river. The road from Naryn town to the pass is good gravel road and further is about 80 km of bad road to the Upper Mudryum. From the riverhead to the campsite grounds it's about 10-20 km on the trail which continues in the riverbeds and slopes which can be driven by the off-road vehicles. Another obstacle of the access is big number of slope swamps in which a vehicle can easily stuck (picture 46 a, b).

The eastern part of the range can be accessed through the Barskaun gorge on the southern shore of lake Issik-Kul. From the gorge the road goes over Barskaun and Suek passes to Karasai village and further over Ashusu pass and Kichi Uzengegush gorge to the river Uzengegush and follows its head. The area along the river has lots of unexplored gorges up to the Chon-Turasu gorge. The road goes mostly along the northern bank of the river and unexplored gorges are on the southern one. There are no bridges or crossings over the river thus it has to be rope crossing. It's necessary to work out access to each canyon itself and recommended to visit the area with people familiar with it. Another difficulty is that in places the road runs on the right bank of the Uzengugush river but now it belongs to China in accordance with the Kyrgyz-Chinese agreement of 2002 and only Kyrgyz border service and its transport has authority to drive the road. Since the 2002 agreements, a border post has been set up at the Karakoz Pass (3804, Uzengesgush upper reaches, in the west and in front of the mouth of the Chon-Turasu valley). Another way to reach the Karakoz border post area and the western Kokshaal-Too in general is to take the track from the western sides from Naryn-Akmuz-Kindy pass-valley of Ak-Say- Valley of the Kotur river. In this way, the Sino-Kyrgyz cross-border problems will be avoided. The trail through the Kotur valley is an old road leading to the border post of the Karakoz pass. This road for the past 25 years has been impracticable. But in recent years, the partially damaged areas have been restored and it is possible to go with four-wheel drive vehicles. It should also be noted that when traveling in the area, vehicles must be equipped with winches, earthmoving and excavation tools to repair the roads and/or to free the vehicle. There must also be sufficient fuel, as it is impossible to find a petrol station in the area !

The region is in the border area and special permit is required.

*Cartography***.** Maps 1/100,000 k43-106 to 108, k43-119 and 120 (China), k44-86 and k44-97.

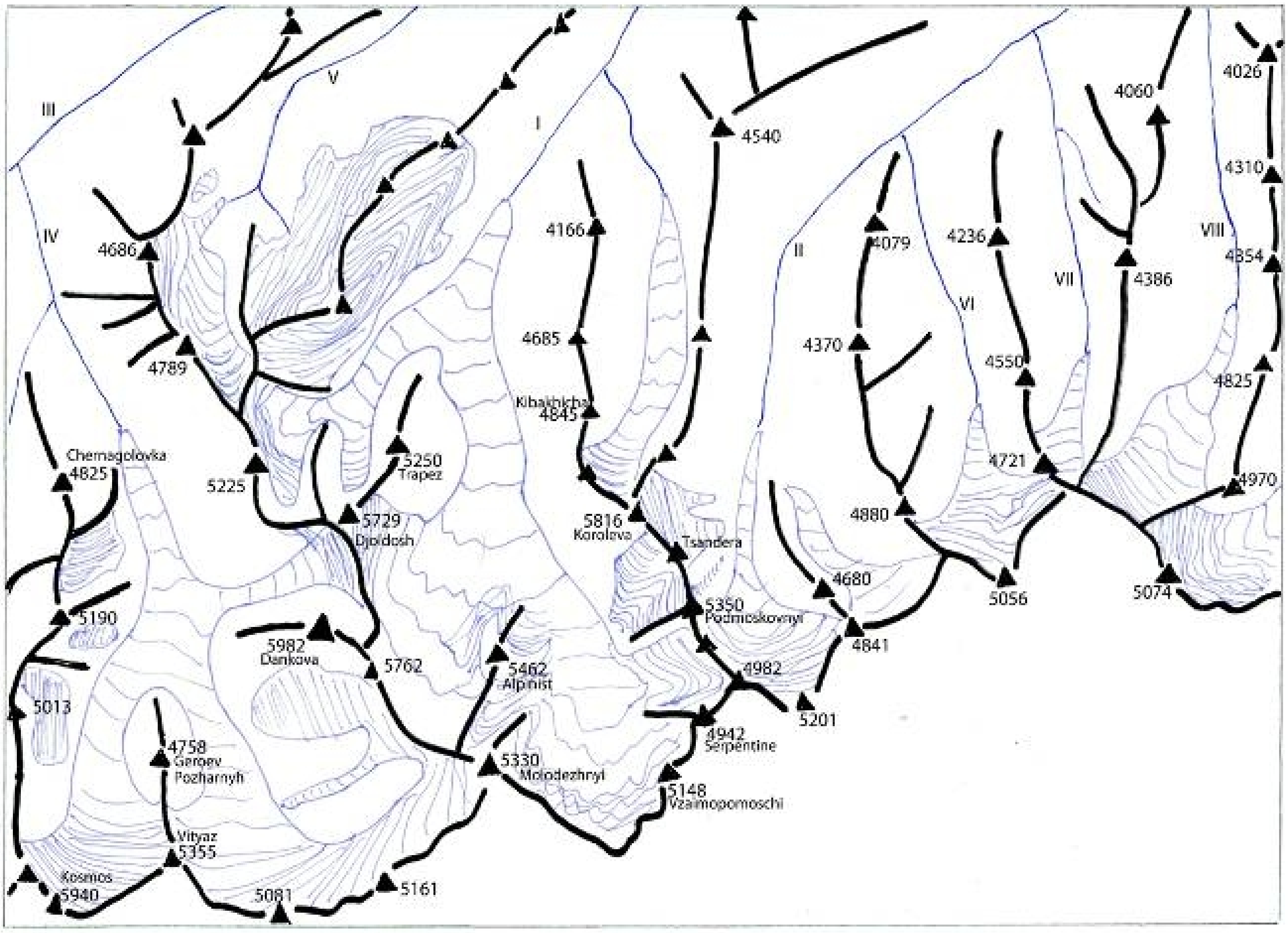
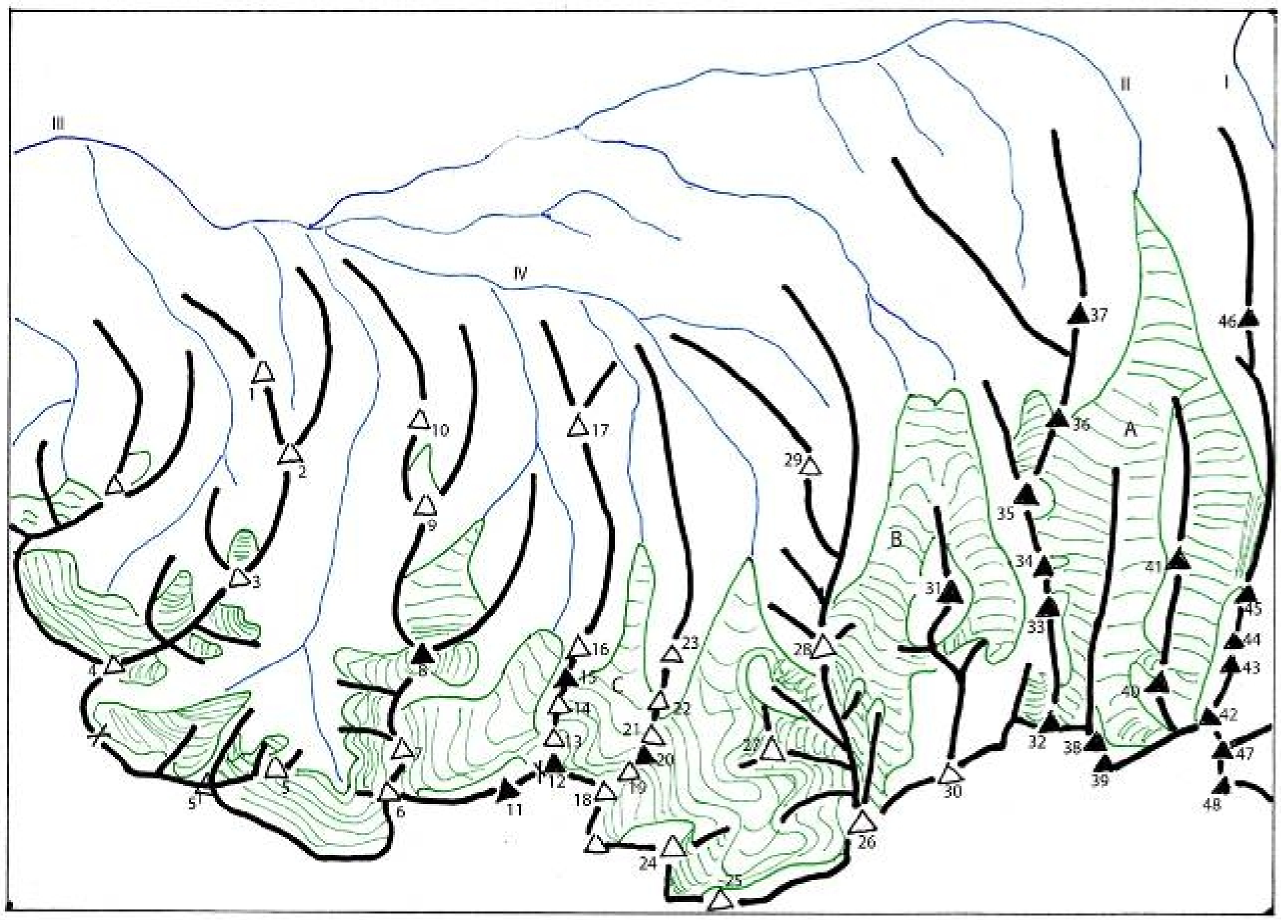

III
V
I
4540
4026
4060
4310
IV
4686
4166
4079
4236
VIII
4354
II
VI
VII
4386
4685
4370
4550
4789
4825
Kibakhkha
4845
Chernagolovka
4825
5250
Trapez
4721
4970
5225
5729
Djoldosh
5816
Koroleva
Tsandera
4880
5190
4680
5056
5074
5350
Podmoskovnyi
4841
5982
Dankova
5762
5462
Alpinist
4982
5013
5201
4942
Serpentine
4758
Geroev
Pozharnyh
5330
Molodezhnyi
5148
Vzaimopomoschi
Vityaz
5355
Kosmos
5940
5081
5161

figure 7. Orographic map of Western Kokshaal, eastern side.

Rivers

I. Chon Turasuu
II.Chontuiukuliuk
III.Uzenghegush
IVDjurek
V. Kichi Turasu
VI. Tuiuk-Bulak
VII.Ekichat
VIII.Kichi-Tuiuk-Uiruk


III
II
I
IV
1
2
3
4
5
5¹
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
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21
22
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24
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31
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36
37
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39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
A
B
C

figure 8. Orographic map of Western Kokshaaltoo, West Part

Peaks

1.3951
2.4234,2
3.4258
4.4607
5.4492 – 5¹. 4660
6.4700 (col 4438,2)
7.4762
8.Kumai, 4818,9
9.4496
10.4201
11.Bars, 4800
12.Chainik, 4742
13.4742
14.4600
15.Helen, 4711
16.Kazan, 4650
17.Djirnugaktu, 4281
18.Ak-Baital, 4981
19.4650

Peaks (next)

20.Mustyr, 4660
21.4700
22.Belyi Veer, 4757
23.4481
24.5056
25.4979
26.5632
27.4705
28.4812
29.4376,1
30.Kyzyl Asker -*Red Shoulder, 5842
31.Liosha, 4716
32.Neizvestnyi Soldat, 5400
33.Zukerman, 5046
34.Karnovskiy, 4700
35.Gronk, 5000

Peaks (next)

36.4415,8
37.4252,1
38.5250,1
39.Babushka -*Grand Mother 5282
40.5083
41.4863
42.5285
43.Trezibets, +5100
44.Djin, 5180
45.Oleg, 4950
46.Liev, 4323,4
47.Pirimida,5140
48.5250

Glaciers

A.Komarova
B.Kyzyl-Asker
C.Baital

Rivers

I.Kotur
II.Kyzylunet
III.Aksay
IV.Kentor

picture 39. Panoramic view of the Western Kokshaal (on the right Kyzyl-Asker peak)

picture 40. Kyzyl-Asker peak

picture 41. Grand Puba peak, view from the west

picture 42. Koshmar-Apa peak (left). Grand Puba peak at the distance, the Western Kokshaal

picture 43. Grand Puba peak

picture 44. Upper reaches of the Kotur glacier, Western Kokshaal

picture 45. AB Camp in the upper reaches of the Kotur glacier, Western Kokshaal

picture 81. GAZ-66 stuck in a swamp, Western Kokshaal

picture 82. URAL stuck in a wamp, Western Kokshaal

A.5. Jangart range (figure 24)

The region is located to the south of Kaindy range on the border with China. It is administrated by Aksuiskiy district of the Issyk-Kul oblast. The small Jangart range is divided from the Kokshaal-Too range by the river and glacier Jangart. The Jangart river is a tributary of the Sarydjaz River. It throws practically in the lower reaches of the Sarydjaz to the confluence with a third river the Akshyyrak, then joined their rushing water into China through narrow gorges that was virtually impenetrable. This last river virtually cut the long Kokshaal-Too range into two distinct parts.

At this point the two ranges Kokshaal-Too and Jangart itself have much climbing similarity in common, Jangart north with an altitude averaging 4600 m and Kokshaal-Too south facing with its highest point at 5318 m. Moreover alpinists often give the name Jangart range for all the peaks on both sides of the river.

The Tien-Shan region can be defined as the most difficult in terms of access and in fact remained virtually unexplored until 2011. The earliest explorations historically recounted are perhaps those of Gotfried Merzbacher during his round trip in 1902-1903 through the Tien-Shan. It was during his stay in the Chinese side that he runs through the lower reaches of Kokshaal-Too foothills and the side valleys in search of the geographical demarcation of the watershed line between north and south Tien-Shan, and the proof that the Sarydjaz and Kum Aryk form a single river pouring out in the sands of the Taklamakan desert. he goes to the sources of the Janart river (Chineses side). A photograph page 143 of his book "The Central Tien-Shan Mountains 1902-1903" is taken from the "Janart" pass, probably the current Sayktor pass at 4583 m.

The first mountaineers came there 99 years later in 2001! By the Kyrgyz side, it is the British exploratory expedition of Ingrid Crossland and Graham Sutton. They accessed the region by helicopter from Maida-Adyr camp. They reiterated exploration in 2004, unable to reach the highest point in the region at 5,318 m. In 2008 a Moscow team makes the ascent of the peak 5291 m from the Kaichi Valley. Another group of British climbers visited the region in 2010 led by Mr. Royer. They have made the climb of many summits. This expedition went into the Kaichi River Valley at the base of the Jangart pass and from this Jangart pass then goes down to the Jangart glacier on the other side. This route takes four days.

In 2011 three expeditions (UK, Denmark and Spain) explores the range each climbing several peaks over 5000m and 4700m without managing its highest peak. It was not until 2013 with the expedition VICE (Vertical Ice Climbing Enthusiast, USA) to see conquered its highest peak on 07.23.2013, called the Peak After You (5318 m), and other major summits of the ridge. Two other expeditions had been organized there during that year 2013 (University of Bristol, UK and New Zealand). For the time in 2014, one needs to explore new areas by the direct access along the Jangart river and further it opens the possibility for some 5,000 m located primarily on the Chinese border.

The road access to this remote alpine area take the road of Barskaun pass then of Suek Pass, Karasai village and the valley of the same name, then along the foothills of the Akshyyrak range to cross the watershed line between the Naryn basin (toward the Syr Darya and Uzbekistan) and those of Sarydjaz and after Kum-Aryk (to China), and finally reach the entrance to the Kaichi valley above the village of Akshyyrak. From there, the track remains off-road passable on the beginning of his career. Beyond it must seek the assistance of shepherds in the summer pasture to offer a horse carriage in front of the valley. For the climb to the Jangart Pass, the use of horses is more random or by asking the price, either by the conditions of its crossing (uncertain). Beyond the adventure begins in the upstream valleys of the river Jangart with theirs long glaciers.

One can also access the area by a helicopter from the basecamp Maida-Adyr (in the Engylchek valley in Central Tien-Shan). This is what are made by the three 2013 expeditions to go there. But for now, walk up access into the Jangart valley itself from downstream was never realized.

The region is in the border area and special permit is required.

*Cartography***.** Maps 1/50,000 k44-74-4, k44-75-3, k44-86-1 and 2 and maps 1/100,000 k44-74, k44-75, k44-86 and k44-87.

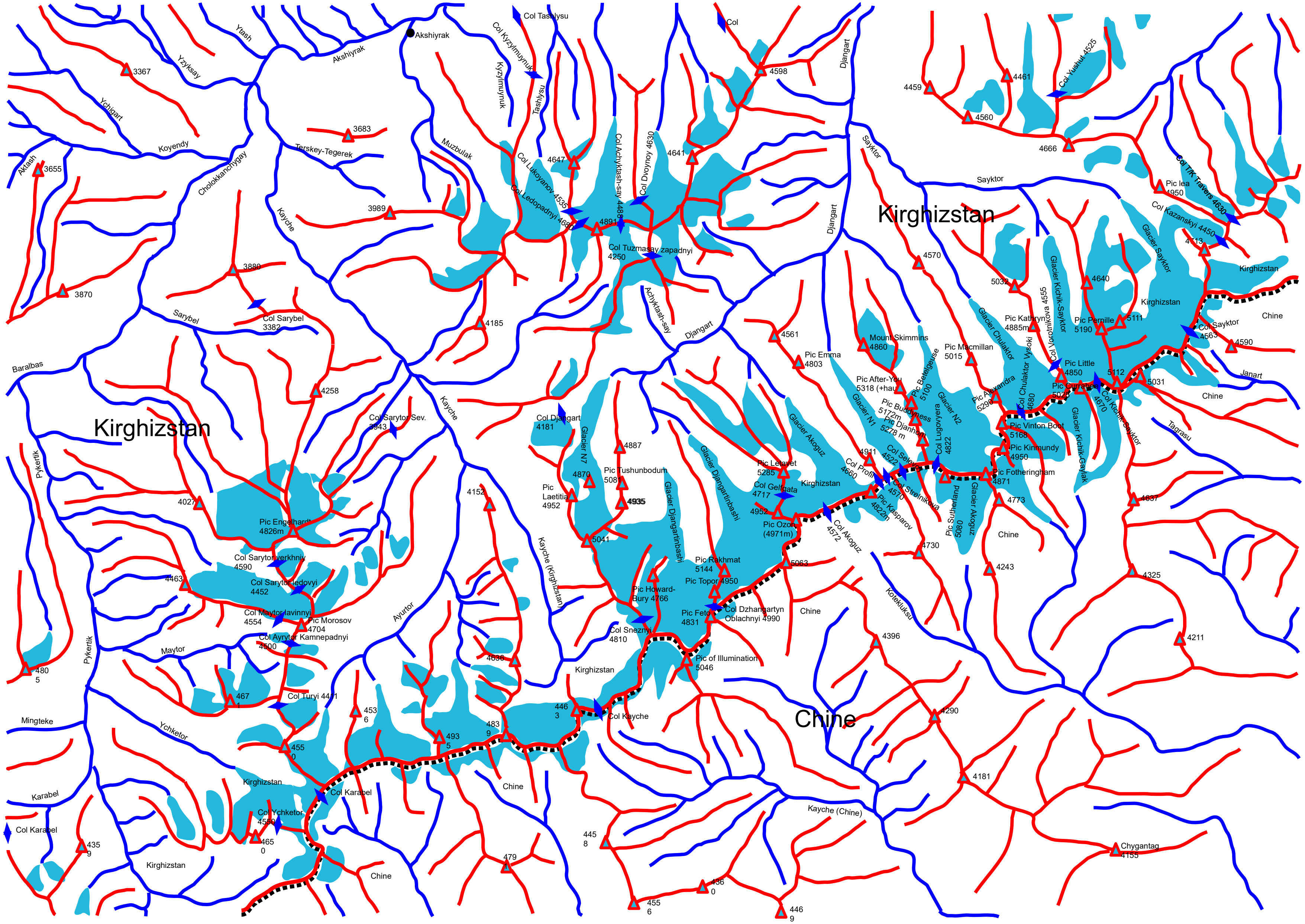

Col Tashlysu
Akshiyrak
Col
Djangart
Ytash
Akshiyrak
3367
Yzyksay
Ychigart
Col Kyzylmuynuk
Kyzylmuynuk
Tashlysu
4598
4459
4461
Col Yushut 4525
4560
4666
3683
Terskey-Tegerek
Koyendy
Cholokkanchygay
Aktash
3655
Muzbulak
4647
Col Lukoyanov 4535
Col Ledopadnyi 4680
4891
Col Achyktash-say 4488
Col Dvoynoy 4630
4641
Sayktor
Sayktor
Pic Iea 4950
Col T/K Travers 4630
Col Kazanskyi 4450
4713
Kayche
3989
Djangart
Kirghizstan
4570
5032
Glacier Kichik-Saytor
Glacier Saytor
4640
Kirghizstan
Kirghizstan
3880
3870
Col Tuzmasay zapadnyi 4250
Col Sarybel 3382
Sarybel
4185
Achyktash-say
Djangart
4561
Pic Emma 4803
Mount Skimmins 4860
Pic Macmillan 5015
Glacier Chulaktor
Col Vorotnikova 4555
Pic Kathryn 4885m
Pic Pernille 5190
5111
Chine
Col Saytor 4563
4590
Baralbas
Pic Little 4850
5112
5031
Janart
Chine
Pic After-You 5318 (+hau
Pic Betelgeuse 5100
Glacier N1
Pic Buddyness 5172m
Pic Djanhorn 5278 m
Col Lugovyera 4822
Glacier N2
Pic Alexandra 5290
Col Chulaktor Vysoki 4680
Pic Currahee 5025
Col Kichik-Saytor 4670
Glacier Kichik-Gaylak
Tagrasu
Pic Vinton Boot 5168
Pic Kinmundy 4950
Pic Fotheringham 4871
4258
Col Sarytor Sev. 3943
Kayche
Col Djangart 4181
Glacier N7
4887
Kirghizstan
Pykertik
Pic Tushunbodum 5081
4870
Pic Laetitia 4952
4935
Glacier Djangartinbashi
Glacier Djangartinbashi
Glacier Akoguz
Pic Letavet 5285
Col Gelfgata 4717
Kirghizstan
4952
Pic Ozon (4971m)
4911
Col Profil 4660
Col Selevoy 4522
Col Strelnikova 4570
Pic Kasparov 4822m
Col Akoguz 4572
Pic Sutherland 5080
Glacier Akoguz
4773
Chine
4637
4027
4152
Pic Engelhardt 4826m
5041
Kayche (Kirghizstan)
4730
Col Sarytor verkhniy 4590
Pic Rakhmat 5144
Pic Topor 4950
5063
4243
4325
4463
Col Sarytor ledovyi 4452
Pic Howard-Bury 4766
Col Dzhangartyn Oblachnyi 4990
Chine
Kotekluksu
Col Maytor lavinnyi 4554
Pic Morosov 4704
Ayurtor
Pic Feto 4831
Col Ayrytor Kamnepadnyi 4500
Col Sneznyi 4810
4396
4211
Pykertik
Maytor
4636
Pic of Illumination 5046
480 5
Kirghizstan
467 1
Col Turyi 4411
453 6
446 3
Col Kayche
Chine
4290
Mingteke
483 9
Ychketor
493 5
455 0
Kirghizstan
4181
Chine
Karabel
Col Karabel
Col Ychketor 4550
Kayche (Chine)
Col Karabel
435 9
465 0
445 8
Chygantag 4155
Kirghizstan
479 1
Chine
436 0
455 6
446 9

figure 24. Orographic scheme of Jangart range

A.6. Inner Tien-Shan

A.6.1) The range of the Ak-Shyyrak 4037

Miscellaneous features

The Ak-Shyyrak range in Inner Tien-Shan should not be confused with that of the same name considered part of Central Tien-Shan and of greater altitude. Besides the Ak-Shyyrak's Inner Tien-Shan only 4037 culminates on an unnamed peak. This small mountain range of 40-60 km across, slightly oriented east-west is situated just north of the crest of Djaman-Too, between the village of Djergetal south, and river Naryn depression and Kazarman on North. One can indeed add to this continuing line, the ridge of Tash-Shaar lower west. The Kargalik pass separates these two parts of the ridge also bordered to the south by firts Makmal then Alabuga rivers that flows upstream of a Naryn river canyon, bordering the same range to the south. To the east the mountain range hit the Ferghana one.

Rocks of this small range are mainly sedimentary rocks, whose relief has been also seriously eroded, and is probably not a main crest of crystalin rocks or strong enough like its neighbor th Djaman-Too, further south. The south side of Ak-Shyyrak is often formed by a rapid and complicated succession of valleys hollowed under the effect of water and heavily embedded in a complex network of temporary water streams.

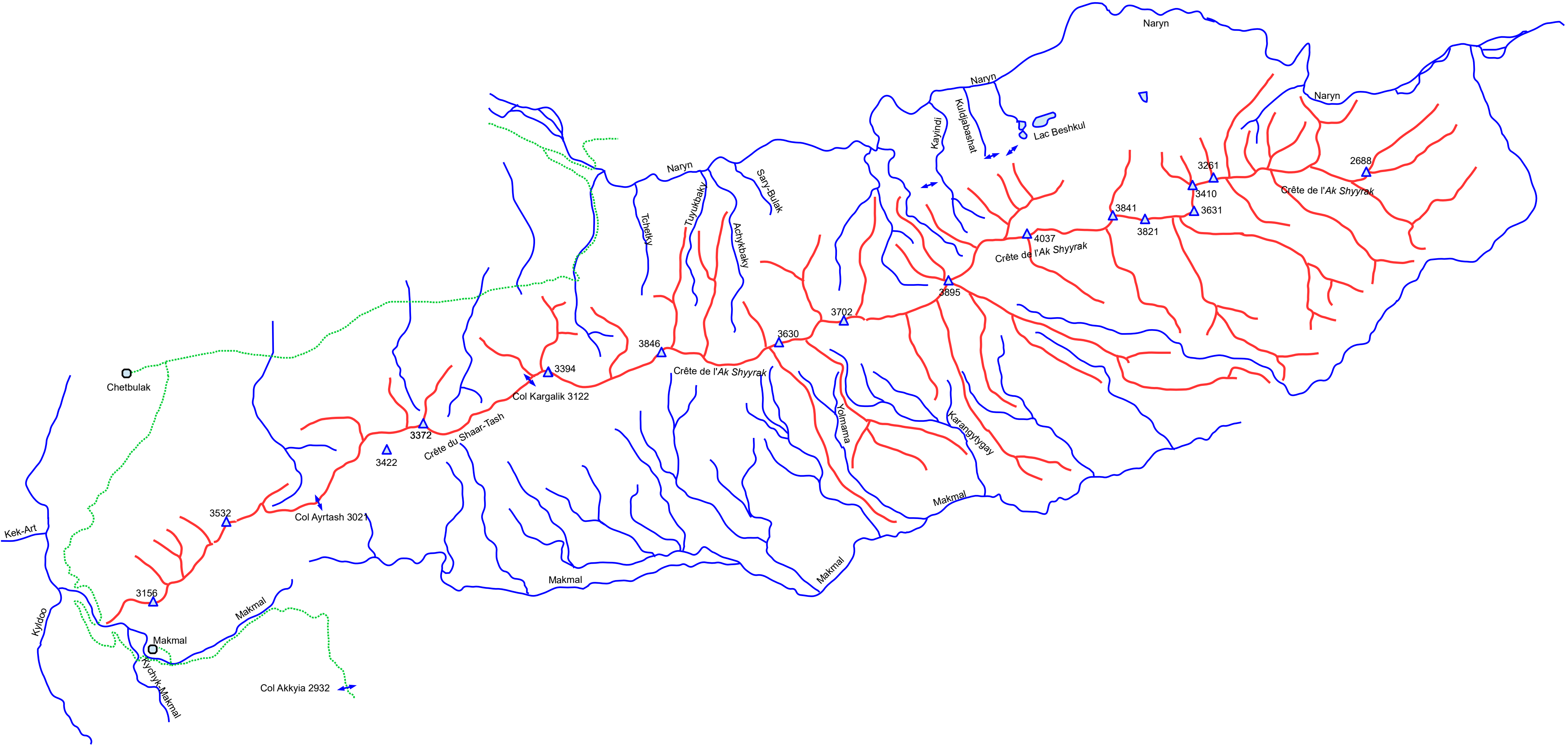
Along the main ridge, eroded terrain and smooth curves lend themselves to hiking trails on some days. But the little pastoral activity in this dry region, especially around lakes on north zone, has not allowed the existence of hiking trail on the main ridge of the Ak-Shyyrak, except the crossing of the two main passes of Ayrtash and Kargalik. However that of Shaar-Tash is traversed by an crest trail in ordre to easily reach the jailoo of both sides at a lower altitude.

Due to the almost total absence of glacier, the relief is particularly dry, both north and south, and we can only rely on water from melting snowfield, and some groundwater reserves resurgent here and there. Some lakes are present, too rare in North Slope around jailoo altitude to 2500-3000. Water is a scarce commodity which must be considered on the ridge line. It should also take some precautions in breeding areas where water can be contaminated.

Access to the mountain

The most direct access to the range is that of road Kaldamo pass through the crest of Ferghana. It offers easy access to the northern and southern parts of the range, the villages of Kazarman (North) or Kosh-Diube/Djergetal (South, by the pass Akkiya 2932m). On the north side of the track Chetbulak Kazarman allows you to reach the highest cervical Kargalik trail (3122 m) separating the two peaks of the range. The road east from Naryn can also join Kosh-Diube once crossed the good side the Alabuga River.

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-101


Naryn
Naryn
Naryn
Naryn
Kayindi
Kuldjabashat
Lac Beshkul
3261
2688
3410
Crête de l'Ak Shyyrak
3631
3841
3821
4037
Crête de l'Ak Shyyrak
3895
3702
3630
3846
Crête de l'Ak Shyyrak
Tchetky
Tuyukbaky
Achykbaky
Sary-Bulak
3394
Col Kargalik 3122
Crête du Shaar-Tash
3372
3422
Chetbulak
3532
Col Ayrtash 3021
3156
Kek-Art
Kyldoo
Makmal
Makmal
Kychyk-Makmal
Col Akkyia 2932
Makmal
Makmal
Makmal
Yolmama
Karangytygay

Orographic Scheme of Ak-Shyyrak-4037 range

A.6.2) At-Bashi range (figure 12, photos 53-56)

The range is situated in the southern part of the inner Tien-Shan. Its sublatitudinal strike is more than 100 km. It’s administrated by Atbashinskiy raion of the Naryn oblast. 70 km of central part of the range is of the interest for climbers. Despite the easy access the region is not explored by climbers. First ascents have been done in 2002 by the climbers from Naryn region under the leadership of V. Komissarov. Later, after 2007 there were several British expeditions of Pat Littlejohn and Andrew Vielkovsky to the Orto Kaindy gorge. Later in 2010 two expeditions were organised, the one by the ISM of Pat Littlejohn and the other by B. Logan in the valleys of Beyyt Kashka-Suu and Oshairak. There are probably more than 100 unclimbed mountains over 4,000m in the region.

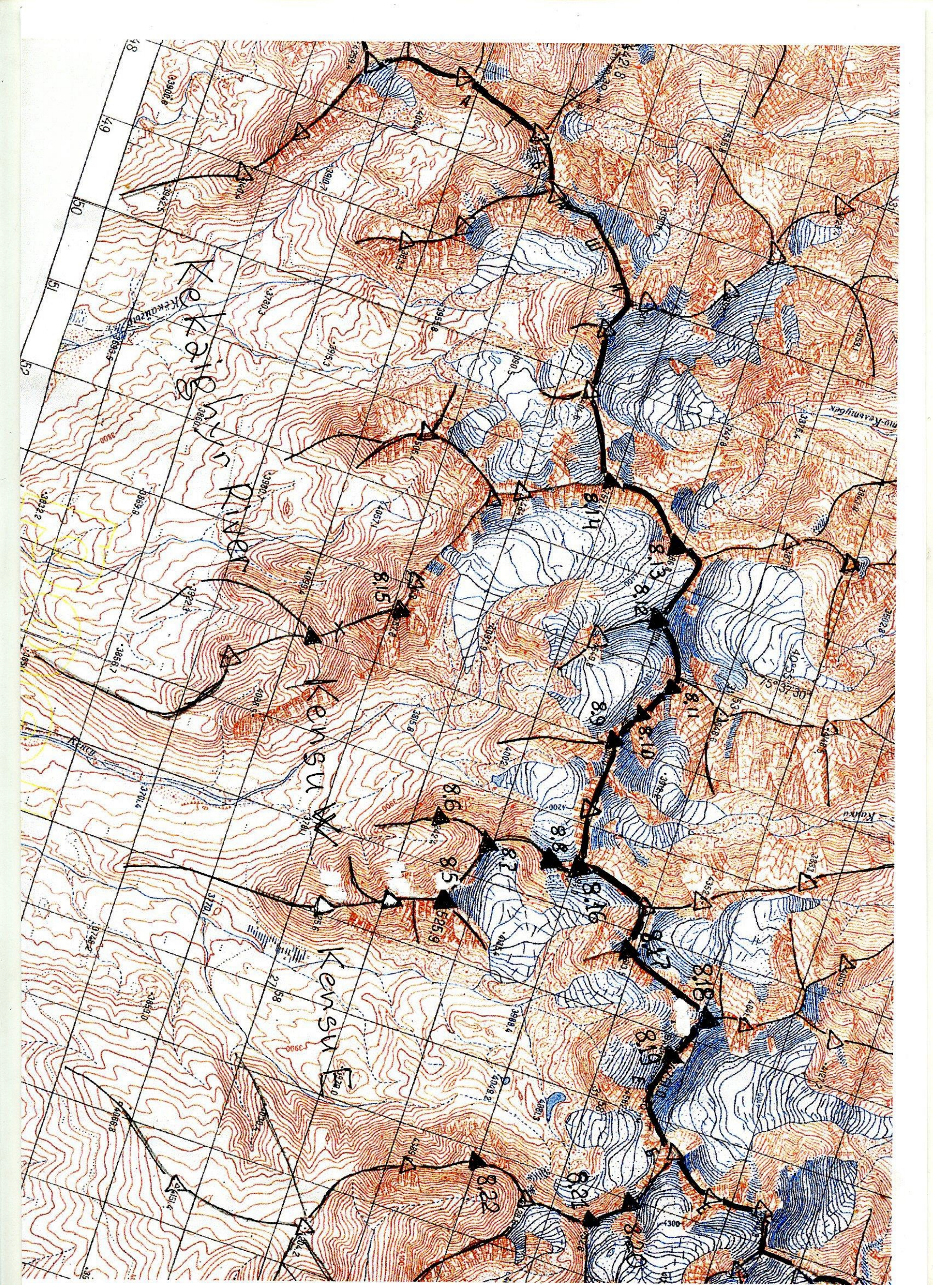
The northern slopes of At-Bashi are of easy access by the busy highway connecting Torugart pass and Naryn, partly located along the foothills. All northern canyons can be accessed exclusively by an off-road vehicle. Convenient base camps can be set up there within 2-3 hour walking distance to the climbing start. Horses can be hired to deliver loads from BC to ABC. Elevation is 600-700m. Routes are on rock, combined, rarely on ice-snow. NO permits required to access canyons of northern slopes.

The main access to the south part of the range goes by the road connecting the village of Kaindy (through the Kaindy pass east of the range) and Torugart pass. This long road goes along the southern slope, driving right banks of Ak-Say river, from Chatyr-Kol lake. All southern canyons can be easily accessed by the road. In fact even last moraines of the glaciers can be reached in canyons if driving in the river beds (no more than 0.6 meter water deep). In comparison with the northern slope of the range and At-Bashi valley the level of erosion in this part is much higher and elevation is less.

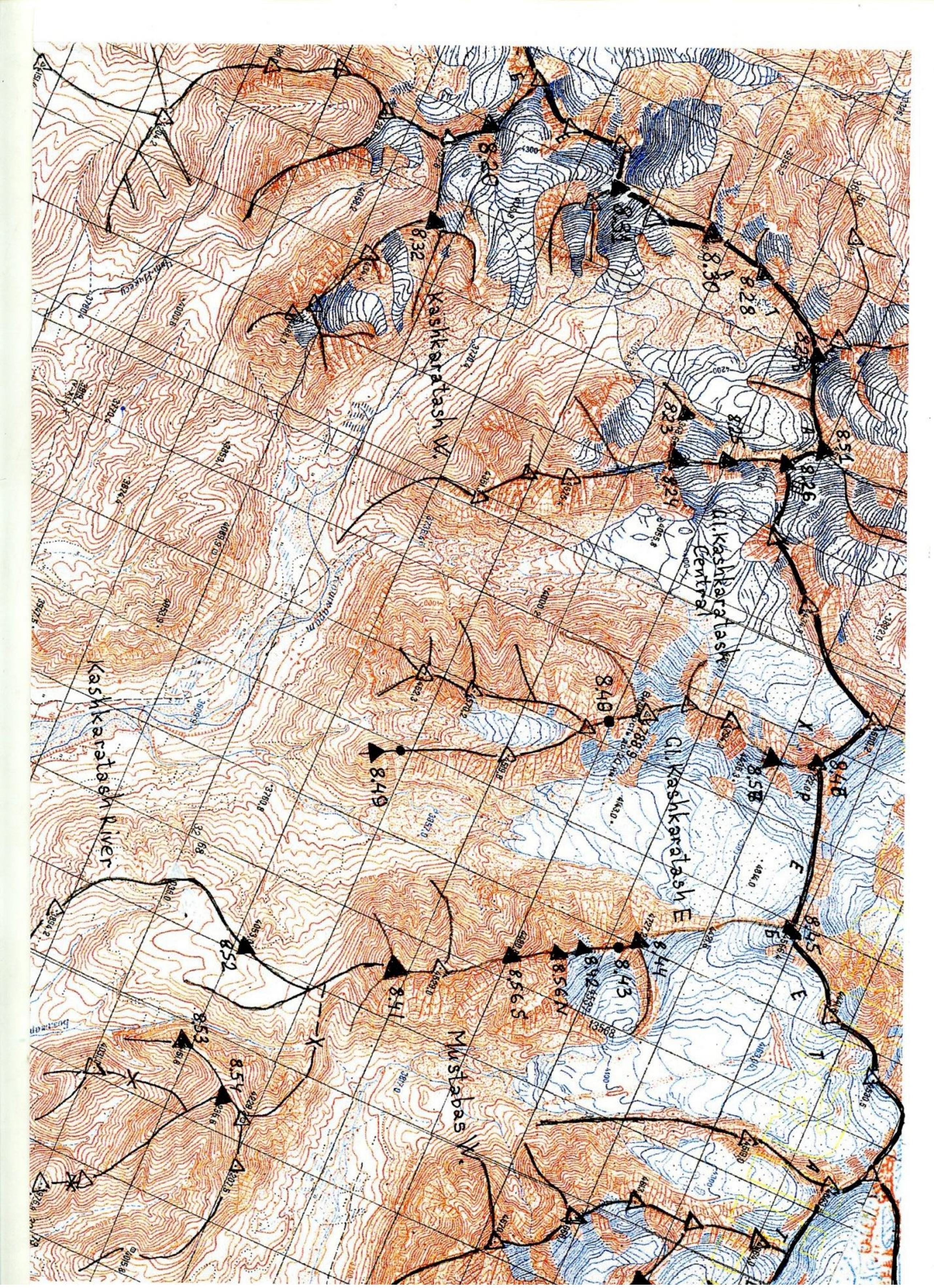
The history of exploration of the range begin in 2010-2011. First two expeditions of Pat Littlejohn were conducted in the Kensu and Muzdabas canyons of the southern slope of At-Bashi range in 2010-2011. 16 first ascents have been done during those expeditions. Thereafter two further ISM expeditions in 2012 and 2014 and one from the British Alpine Club in 2014 allowed to climb more than 26 previously unexplored peaks, especially in the Kashkaratash valley du. This part of the range is globally more known than the northern slopes, but in both sides there are still many unexplored valleys and as many as unclimbed summits.

The southern slopes are in the border area and special permit is required.

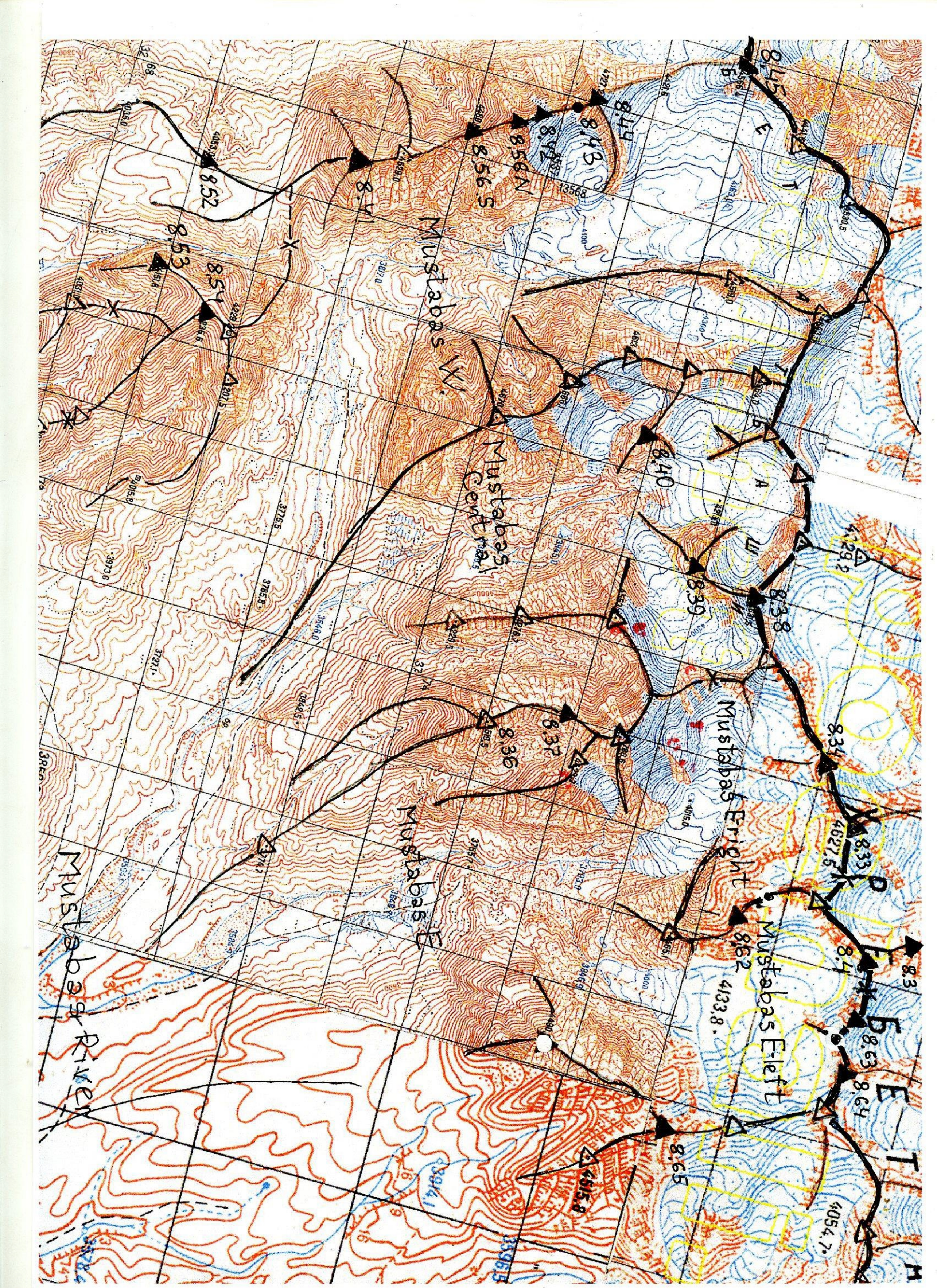
*Cartography***.** Maps 1/100,000 k43-105, k43-106 and k43-116.


Kekaighyr River
Kensu W
Kensu E
8.1
8.2
8.3
8.4
8.5
8.6
8.7
8.8
8.9
8.10
8.11
8.12
8.13
8.14
8.15
8.16
8.17
8.18
8.19
8.20
8.21
8.22

Kensu river basin of Atbashi Range Southern slope. Climbed (black) and unclimbed peaks (white)


Kashkaratash River
Kashkaratash V.
Gl. Kashkaratash Central
Gl. Kashkaratash E
Mustabas V.
8.20
8.32
8.31
8.30
8.28
8.23
8.25
8.24
8.26
8.51
8.40
8.49
8.58
8.48
8.45
8.44
8.43
8.42
8.56N
8.56S
8.41
8.52
8.53
8.54

Kashkaratash river basin of Atbashi Range Southern slope. Climbed (black) and unclimbed peaks (white)


Mustabas W.
Mustabas Central
Mustabas E
Mustabas Eright
Mustabas Eleft
Mustabas River
8.3
8.33
8.34
8.36
8.37
8.38
8.39
8.4
8.40
8.41
8.42
8.43
8.44
8.45
8.52
8.53
8.54
8.56 N
8.56 S
8.62
8.63
8.64
8.65
4133.8
4054.7
4627.5
4229.2

Musdabas river basin of Atbashi Range Southern slope. Climbed (black) and unclimbed peaks (white)

List of climbed summits of At-Bashi Range

Peak # on the map	Peak name, altitude by meters	First climbing team lieder and team members, route	Grade	Year of first Ascent
8.1	Ajibek Batyra Peak, 4320	Vladimir Komissarov, Myrza Tezekbaev, E slope & N ridge	2A	2002
8.2	Kazybek Kazalchi Peak, 4530	Vladimir Komissarov, Myrza Tezekbaev, E slope & S ridge	1 B	2002
8.2	Kazybek Kazalchi Peak, 4530	Andrew Wielochowski Expedition Orto Kaindy Valley, 2007 (No info)		
8.3	Topoztor Peak, 4600	Pat Littlejohn, Barney Harford, Max Gough, S ridge, then S face and W flank	AD	2007
8.4	Inek Peak, 4560	Vladimir Komissarov, Leif Iversen N ice flank to Mamalik Pass and E ridge	PD	2007
8.5	Sumashedshaya Peak, 4510	Adrian Nelhams, Tim Evans S Ridge	D+	2010
8.6	Altynay Peak, 4470	Vladimir Komissarov (solo), N Ridge	PD-	2010
8.7	Kumur Ay Peak, 4480	Vladimir Komissarov, Laura Fletcher, Paul Wellicome, N Ridge	F	2010
8.8	Eki Bash Peak, 4460	Pat Littlejohn, Patrick Cadell, Mark Dillon, Tom Fox, traversed via N Ridge from col	PD+	2010
8.9	Ara Peak, 4595	Pat Littlejohn, Patrick Cadell, Mark Dillon, Tom Fox, E Ridgeby snow couluar	AD	2010
8.10	Robert Peak, 4570	Vladimir Komissarov, Laura Fletcher, Paul Wellicome, NW Ridge	F	2010
8.11	Apa Peak, 4560	Vladimir Komissarov, Laura Fletcher, Paul Wellicome, W Ridge	F	2010
8.12	Ak Yurta Peak, 4600	Adrian Nelhams, Tim Evans, Adam Dickins, SW Flank	F	2010
8.13	Shagyl Peak, 4565	Vladimir Komissarov, Adam Dickins, E Flank	F	2010
8.14	Kensu Peak, 4757	Pat Littlejohn, Patrick Cadell, Mark Dillon, Tom Fox, S Ridge	AD	2010
8.15	Ekilik Peak, 4496	Adrian Nelhams, Laura Fletcher, Paul Wellicome, Tim Evans, N Ridge	AD-	2010
8.16	Chaghylgan Peak, 4486	No info (Pat Litlejohn exp)	?	2012
8.17	Centre Piece (Ortosu), 4626	No info (Pat Litlejohn exp)	?	2012
8.18	Kirsten Peak, 4621	No info (Pat Litlejohn exp)	?	2012
8.19	4725 (Name???)	No info (Pat Litlejohn exp)	?	2012
8.20	Okno (Window) Peak, 4556	No info (Pat Litlejohn exp)	?	2012
8.21	Negritianka Peak, 4417	No info (Pat Litlejohn exp)	?	2012
8.22	Alun’s Peak, ???	No info (Pat Litlejohn exp)	?	2012
8.23	Marina Peak, 4503	Pat Littlejohn, W ridge	PD	2013
8.24	Kunduz Peak, 4550	Pat Littlejohn, W Ridge	PD-	2013
8.25	Dostuk Peak, 4590	Adrian Neshams, W Ridge	F+	2013
8.26	Nurga Boelgon, 4600	Adrian Nelhams, S Ridge	PD+	2013
8.26	Nurga Boelgon, 4600	Vladimir Komissarov, Gadi Shtirmer, Eric Dahlbom,traverse from Diane Pk.	PD	2014
8.27	Churkoo Peak, 4460	Adrian Nelhams, Stephen Taylor, Jason Sheldrake, Jerry Gale, Paolo Capozzi E Ridge	PD	2013
8.28	Cerberus Peak, 4365	Pat Littlejohn, Julia Tizard, Andrew Ramsay, NE Ridge to E summit	AD	2013
8.29	Cerebrus Peak, 4365	Adrian Nelhams, Stephen Taylor, Jason Sheldrake, Jerry Gale, Paolo Capozzi E face + S Ridge to C summit	AD+	2013
8.30	Saiee Peak, 5401	Pat Littlejohn, Julia Tizard, Carlo Bezoari, Andrew Ramsay, Susanne Galler, S Ridge	F+	2013
8.31	Ak Tsaritsa, 4580	Pat Littlejohn, Julia Tizard, Carlo Bezoari, Andrew Ramsay, N flank	PD	2013
8.32	Kun Chygush, 4460	Pat Littlejohn, Julia Tizard, Carlo Bezoari, Andrew Ramsay, N	PD	2013

Peak # on the map	Peak name, altitude by meters	First climbing team lieder and team members, route	Grade	Year of first Ascent
		face\E Ridge		
8.33	Katushka Peak, 4640	Paul Josse, Stive Brown, Tarje Lokken E ridge	PD	2013
8.34	Sur Peak (Marmot), 4480	Paul Josse, Steve Brown, S ridge	PD	2013
8.35	Mergenchi Peak, 4490	Steve Brown, Tarje Lokken, S Ridge	F	2013
8.36	Egizder Peak,4519	Paul Josse (solo), SE ridge	PD-	2013
8.37	Josse Pt, 4502	Paul Josse (solo), traverse from Egizder Pk	PD+	2013
8.38	Chatir Peak, 4646	Paul Josse, Steve Brown, Tarje Lokken, SE face	PD	2013
8.39	Olds Buffalos Peak, 4550	Paul Josse, Steve Brown, Tarje Lokken, traverse from Chatir Peak	AD	2013
8.40	Panorama Peak,4430	Paul Josse (solo), S-N ridge	PD+	2013
8.41	Kara Peak, 4534	Jason Sheldrake (solo), S Ridge	F	2014
8.42	Jemish Peak, 4550	Vladimir Komissarov, Martin Wardley, Eric Bates, S Flank	F	2014
8.43	Littlejonovich Pt, 4690	Pat Littlejohn, Stephen Taylor, N Ridge	AD-	2014
8.44	James Bruton Peak, 4727	Pat Littlejohn, Martin Wardley, Eric Bates, Stephen Taylor,	F	2014
8.45	Arie Gabai Peak, 4530	Vladimir Komissarov, Gadi Shtirmer, Eric Dahlbom, W Ridge	PD-	2014
8.45	Arie Gabai Peak, 4530	Adrian Nelhams Stuart McAleese, Aleksey Potockiy, Mark Aitken, Tarni Duhre, Lisa Ferrero, Ewan Jones, David Kennaway, Walter Robison, Jason Sheldrake, Stephen Taylor, Richard Walker,, S Face	AD	2017
8.46	Tunduk Gyldyz Peak, 4730	Pat Littlejohn, Stephen Taylor, Sheldrake, Gadi Shtirmer, Eric Bates, NE Ridge	AD-	2014
8.47	Penitent Pt,4700	Pat Littlejohn, Stephen Taylor, Martin Wardley, Eric Bates E Face	AD	2014
8.48	Toynuguch Pt, 4750	Pat Littlejohn, Stephen Taylor, Jason Sheldrake, Martin Wardley, Eric Bates E Flank	AD	2014
8.49	Taaji Peak, 4200	Pat Littlejohn, Gadi Shtirmer, Martin Wardley, Eric Bates T Flank	PD	2014
8.50	Pt. Echinchi, 4187	Pat Littlejohn		2014
8.51	Dianne Peak, 4439	Vladimir Komissarov, Gadi Shtirmer, Eric Dahlbom, traverse from 4479 Pk.	F	2014
8.51	Dianne Peak, 4439	Emily Ward a solo trip to the Kashkaratash Valley, 2015 (No info)		
8.52	4032 Peak	Adrian Nelhams, Stuart McAleese, Lisa Ferrero , Walter Robison	F	2017
8.53	4239 Peak	Adrian Nelhams, Max Cole, Stuart McAleese, Aleksey Potockiy, Mark Aitken, Tarni Duhre, Lisa Ferrero, Ewan Jones, David Kennaway, Walter Robison, Jason Sheldrake, Stephen Taylor, Richard Walker and David Woods. W Slope	F	2017
8.54	4249 Peak	Stuart McAleese, Max Cole, Adrian Nelhams,Aleksey Potockiy, Mark Aitken, Tarni Duhre, Lisa Ferrero, Ewan Jones, David Kennaway, Walter Robison, Jason Sheldrake, Stephen Taylor, Richard Walker, and David Woods. , N Ridge	F	2017
8.55	Rhianydd Peak, 4801	Adrian Nelhams, Max ColeMC, Stuart McAleese, Mark Aitken, Tarni Duhre, Lisa Ferrero, Ewan Jones, David Kennaway, Walter Robison, Jason Sheldrake, Stephen Taylor, Richard Walker, E Face and N Ridge	AD	2017
8.56	Ordo Peak, 4612	Vladimir Komissarov, David Woods W Face	PD	2017
8.57	Volchitsa Peak, 4461	Adrian Nelhams, Stuart McAleese, Aleksey Potockiy, Mark Aitken, Tarni Duhre, Lisa Ferrero, Ewan Jones, David Kennaway, Walter Robison, Jason Sheldrake, Stephen Taylor, Richard Walker, E Face	PD	2017
8.58	Ata Babalar Peak, 4557	Max Cole, Tarni Duhre, Ewan Jones, S Ridge	PD	2017

Peak # on the map	Peak name, altitude by meters	First climbing team lieder and team members, route	Grade	Year of first Ascent
8.59	4516 Peak	Aitken, Tarni Duhre, Lisa Ferrero, Ewan Jones, David Kennaway, Walter Robison, Jason Sheldrake, Stephen Taylor, Richard Walker, and David Woods. SE and S Ridge		
8.60	4536 Peak	Adrian Nelhams, Aleksey Potockiy, Mark Aitken, Tarni Duhre, Lisa Ferrero, Ewan Jones, David Kennaway, Walter Robison, Jason Sheldrake, Stephen Taylor, Richard Walker and David Woods. from 4516 Peak	PD	2017
8.61	4152 Peak	Adrian Nelhams, Mark Aitken, Tarni Duhre, Ewan Jones, Jason Sheldrake, Stephen Taylor, Richard Walker and David Woods. E Slope	F	2017
8.62	Beersh Berkut Peak,4600	Pat Littlejohn	PD	2010
8.63	Dom Byely Peak, 4550	Pat Littlejohn	PD	2010
8.64	Stefan Peak, 4480	Pat Littlejohn	PD	2010
8.65	Bashnya Peak, 4690	Pat Littlejohn	PD	2010

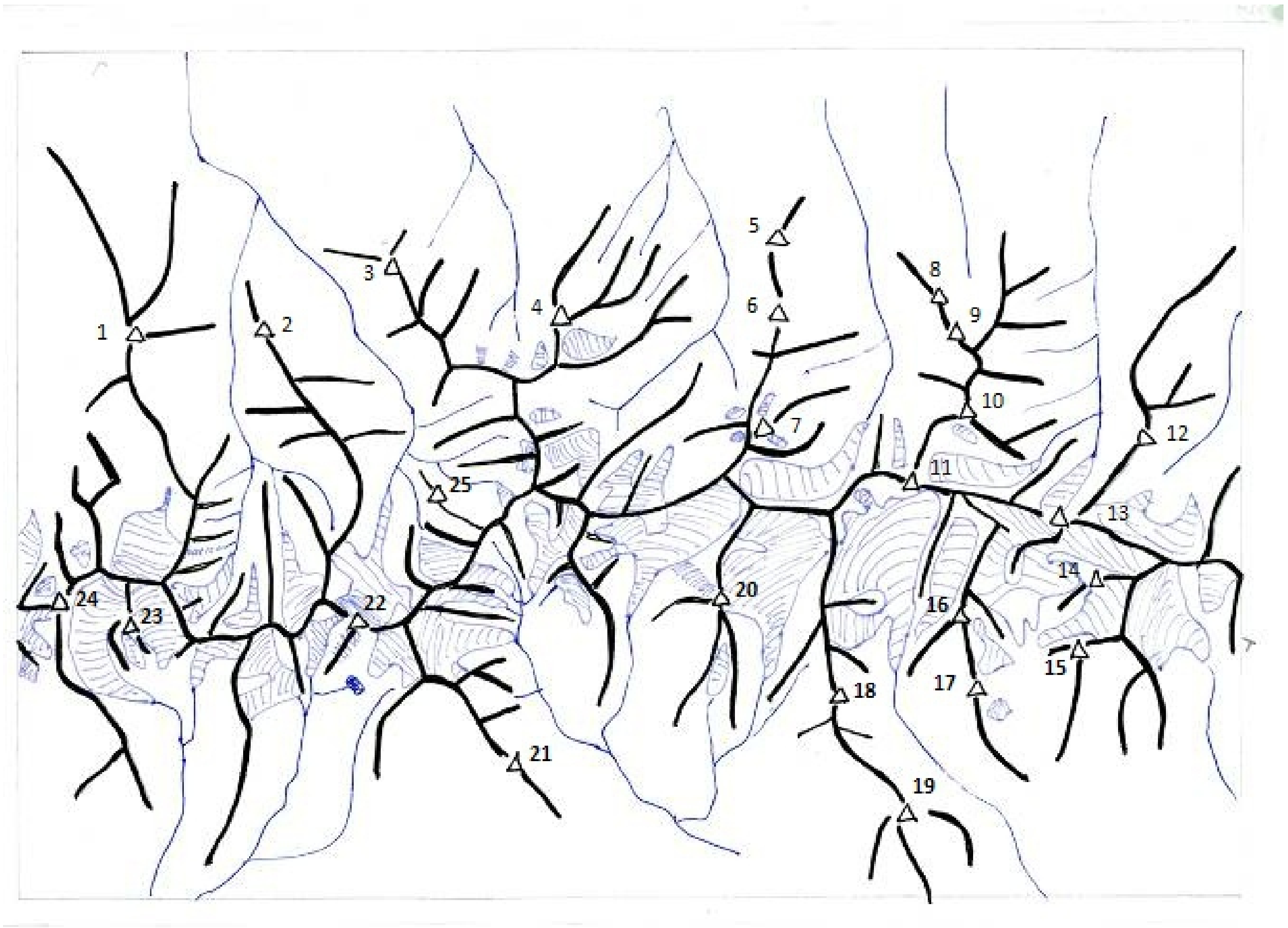

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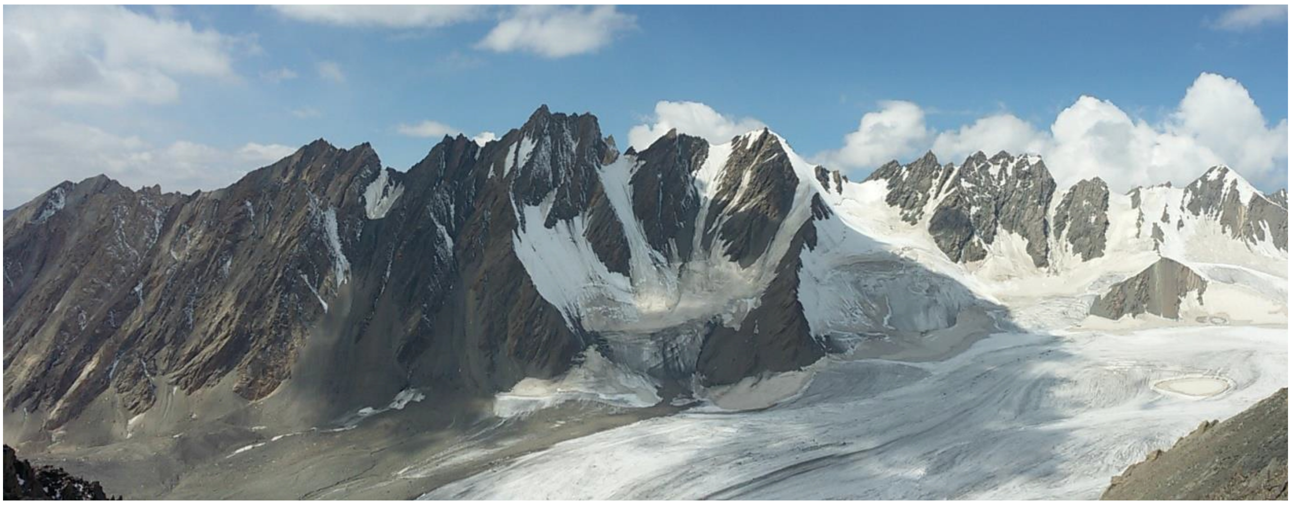
figure 12. Orographic map of central part of Atbashinskiy range

Peaks	Peaks (next)
1.4080	16.4613
2.3480	17.4670
3.3965	18.4529
4.4296	19.4235
5.4009	20.4788
6.4112	21.4089
7.4314	22.4751
8.4147	23.4549
9.4307	24.4757
10.4627	25.3955
11.4530	
12.4088	
13.4635	
14.4553	
15.4229	

Highest summit of At-Bashi, Rhianydd Peak 4801 m

Unclimbed area of Mustabas West Glacier, view from Ordo Peak to N-East.

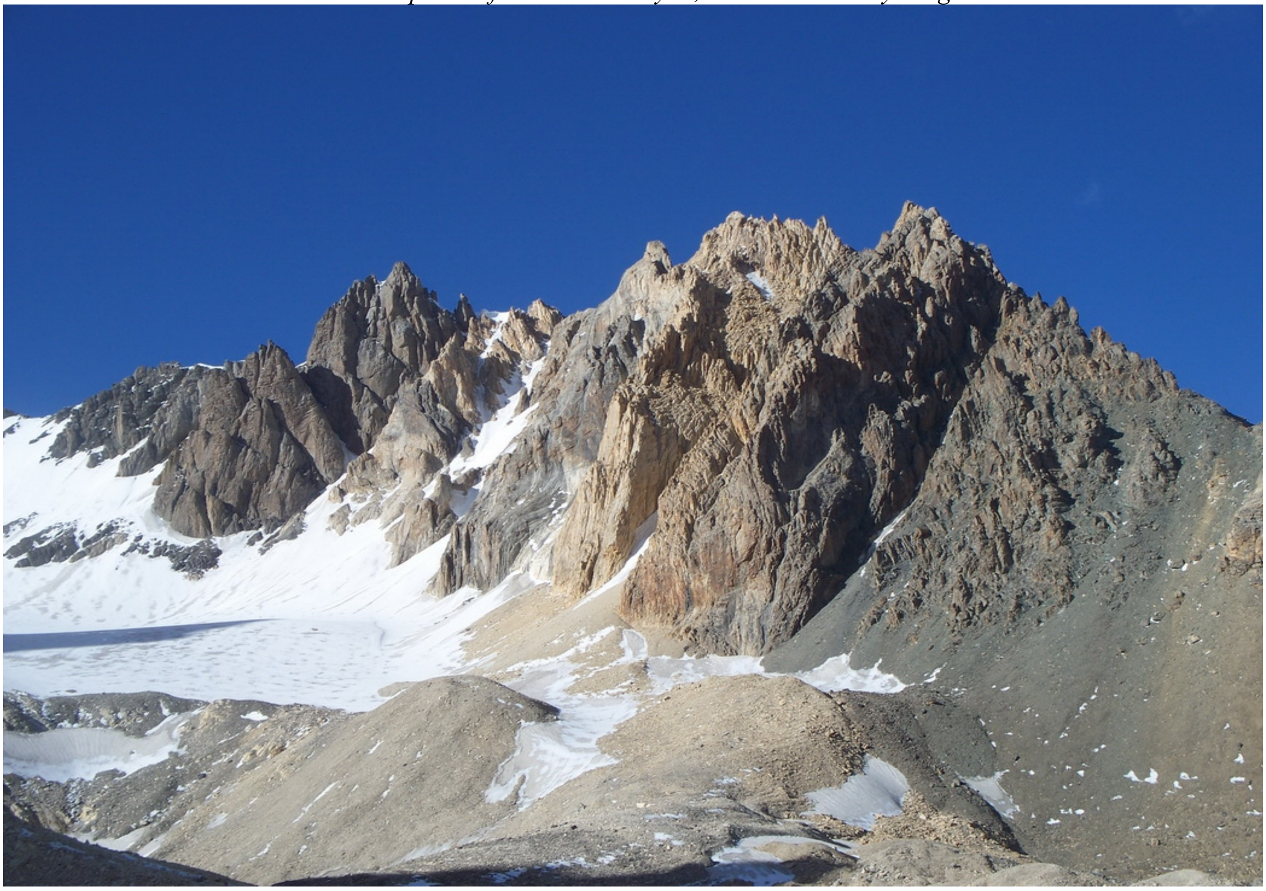


Unclimbed peaks (to 2018) of Kashkaratash East Glacier, view from Ordo Peak to West

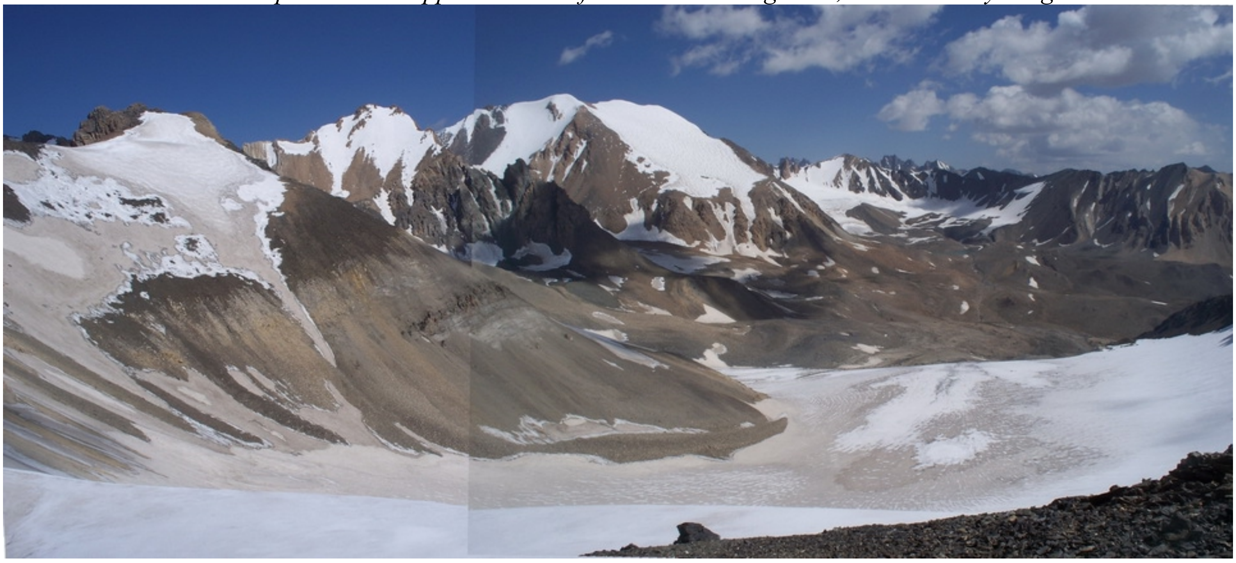
Base camp in Kashkaratash valley

BC in the Kensu canyon, southern part of the At-Bashinskiy range

Unnamed peaks of the Kensu canyon, the At-Bashinskiy range

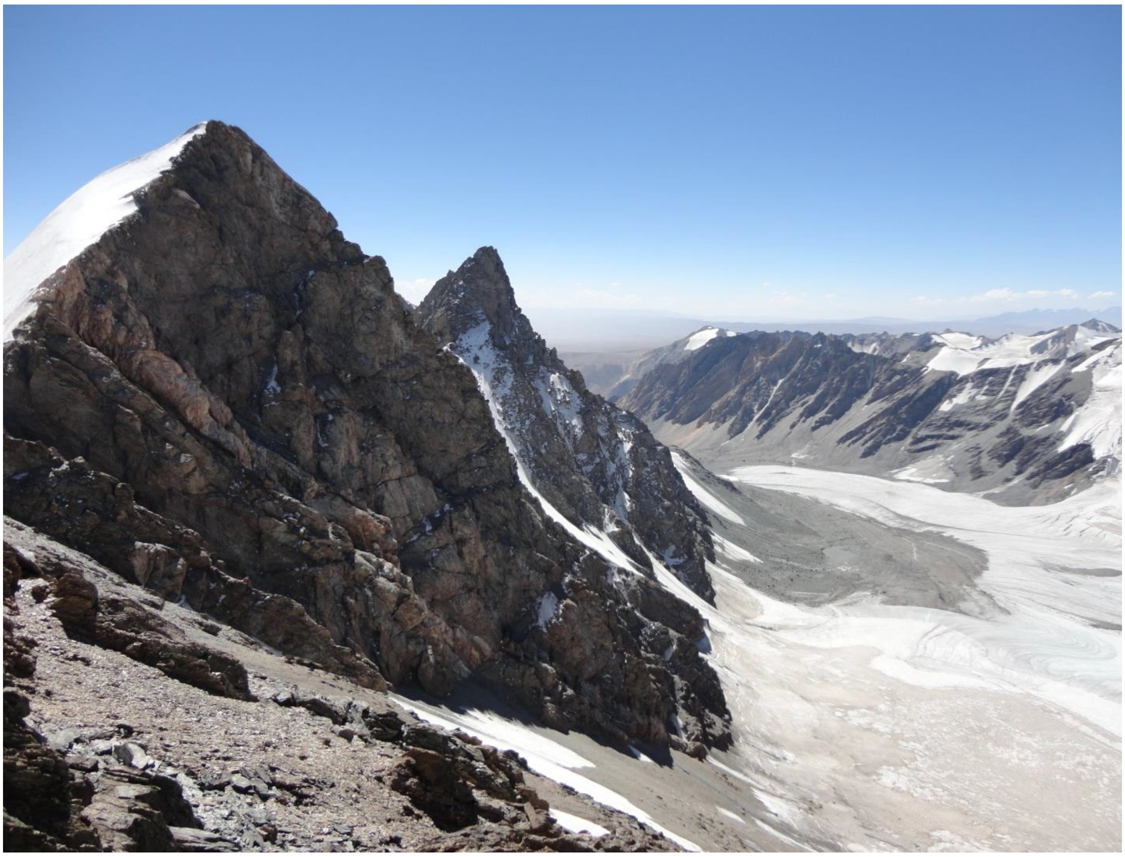


Unnamed peaks in the upper reaches of the East-Kensu glacier, At-Bashinskiy range

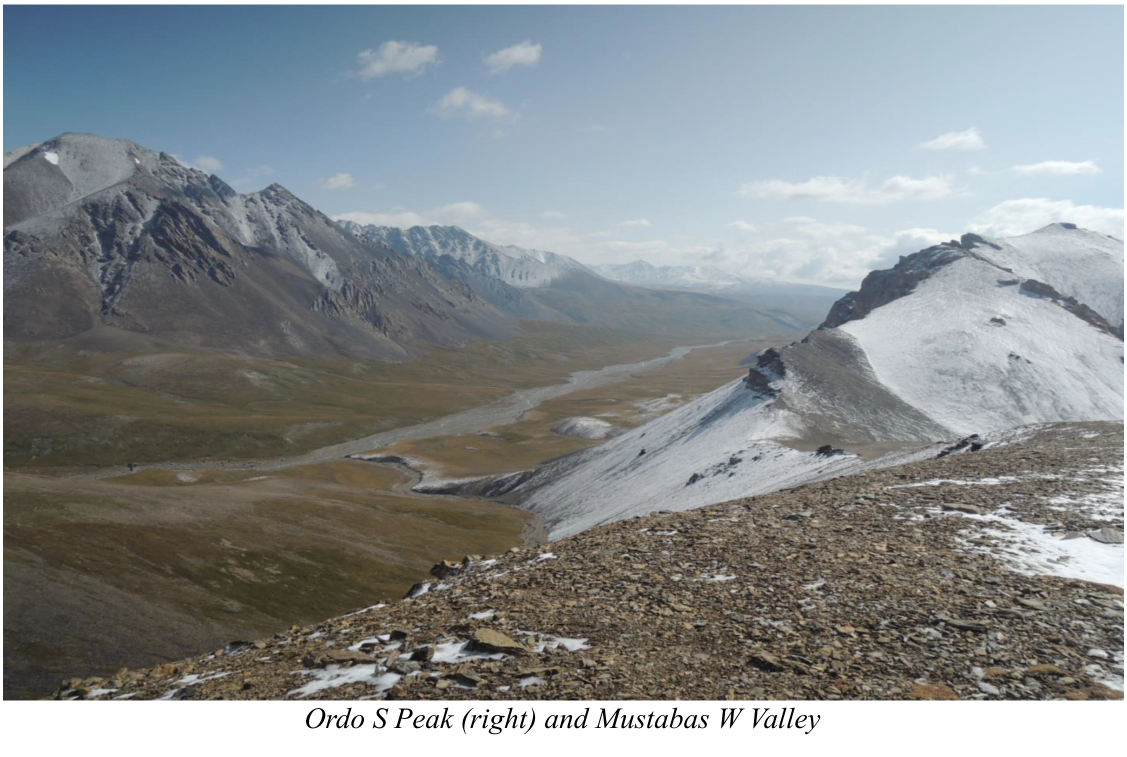


Unnamed peaks of the Tuyukbogoshu glacier, At-Bashinskiy range.

Dom Byely Peak Tower 4550



Peaks James Bruton (left) and Jemish (right)



Ordo S Peak (right) and Mustabas W Valley

KAMAZ stuck in a bog, Atbashinskiy range

Camp in West part of Atbashi Range

A.6.3) Borkoldoy range (figure 11, photos 49-52)

The range is situated to the north of Western Kokshaltoo and to the east of Jany-Jer ridge. It's administrated by Jetyoguzskiy raoin of the Issik-Kul oblast. Borkoldoy range is formed in horseshoe shape facing west with its open side. The region is not very well explored.

In the Alpine records of the Soviet Union, there is little information available on ascents preceding Perestroika. A first expedition known in the region can be found in 1957 by the "Alpiniada" Club of the Physical and Technical Institute of Moscow. It is known that it was climbed Pic Pervenets by its southern edge (Pic "First Born", quotation 1B, F). The first post-Perestroika expedition took place in 2002 under the direction of the very active Pat Littlejohn with his school of Mountaineering (ISM). In 2004, Pat Littlejohn's ISM reiterated the exploration of the region and the ascent of Pic Pervenets. In 2003 the ISM explored the valley of the Kaynar River (Kaynar Lake 3486 m) in the heart of the eastern part of the massif. Since several other expeditions followed, by ISM in the central and northern part of the ridges and by the British Marine Mountaineering Club, north of Borkoldoy.

Different parts of the range have different accesses. The northern, eastern and south-eastern parts can be accessed from Barskaun via Karasai village. The southern and central part of the range can be reached only from Naryn via Akmuz village and further to the valley of the Moyudrum river. As the region is not very popular among climbers, only 20 summits were climbed among numerous unclimbed peaks. Nowadays more than 100 peaks over 4,000 meters high and 8 peaks over 5,000m are still unclimbed. Only off-road vehicles can provide access to the region itself and to the base camps. It takes about 2-4 days to get there from Bishkek. There are no people living there permanently. Only several hunting grounds and shepherds' farms are found in the area, no settlements. In 2005, the "Harvard Borkoldoy Expedition" also climbed 9 peaks between 4700m and 4900m.

Access to the hunting grounds is restricted therefore it's advised to get in touch with the management and inquire the permission to enter the territory.

The region is in the border area and special permit is required.

*Cartography***.** Maps 1/100,000 k44-85, k43-96 and k43-108.

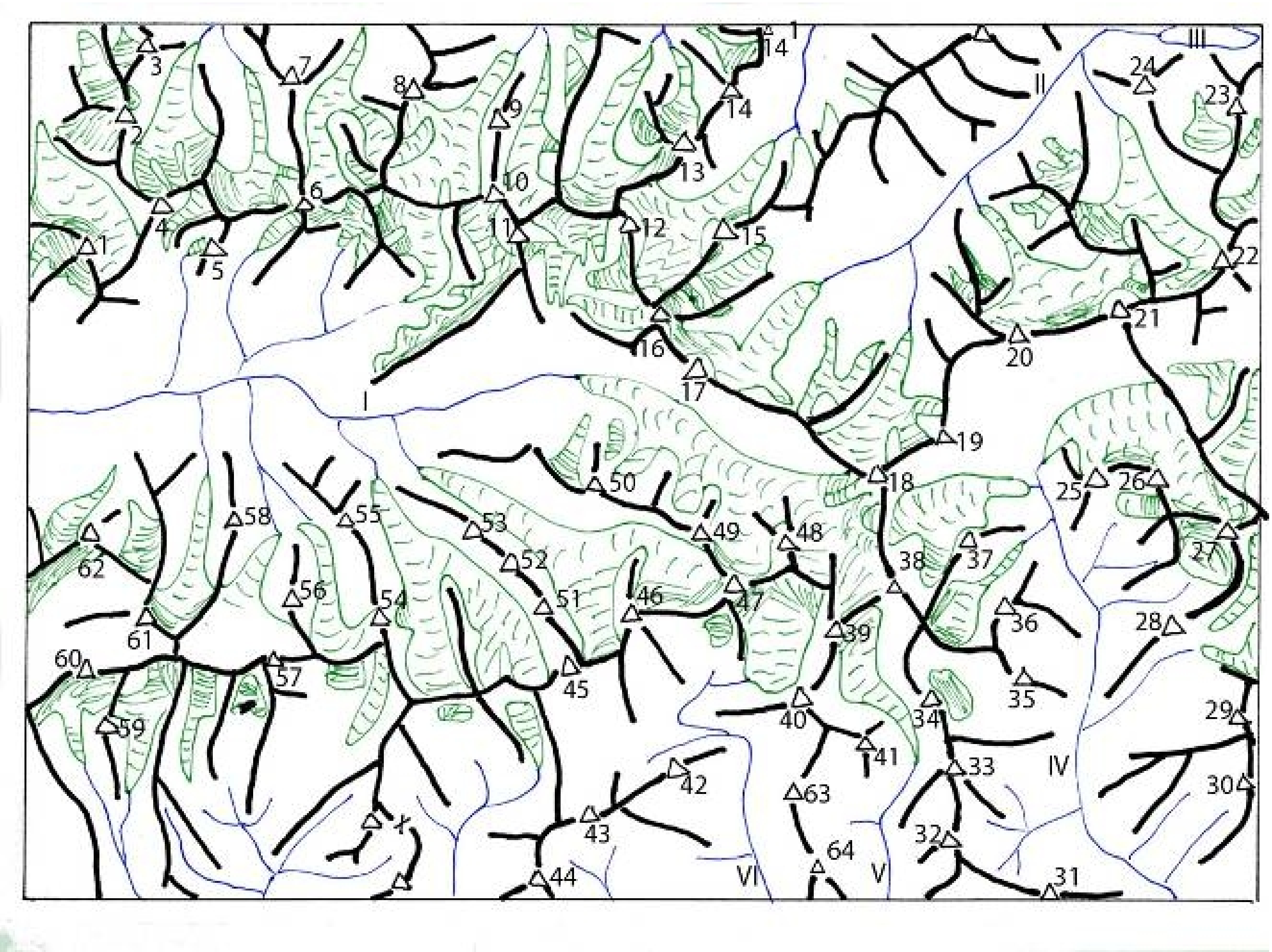

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figure 11. Orographic map of Borkoldoy range

Peaks	**Peaks (next)**	**Peaks (next)**	**Peaks (next)**	**Rivers**
1.4707,5	16.4886	32.4230	49.4910	I.Djagalmai
2.4827,5	17.4822	33.4694	50.4921	II.Kainar
3.4347,7	18.4970	34.4718	51.5041	III.Kainar Lake
4.4719	19.4913,6	35.4572	52.4780	IV.Cholokkapchigai
5.4408,5	20.4709	36.4870	53.4380	V.Tuiuk
6.4803	21.5147,4	37.4810	54.5017	VI.Dryktal
7.4858,7	22.4633,6	38.4902,1	55.4515	
8.4708,8	23.4509,6	39.5070	56.4575	
9.4521,7	24.4726	40.5010	57.4702,7	
10.4778	25.4770	41.4421	58.4449,6	
11.4899,8	26.4983	42.4343	59.4791,6	
12.4848,6	27.5169	43.4781,9	60.4690	
13.4959,1	28.4542	44.4499	61.Borkoldoy, 4765	
14.4776,1 – 14^{1}. 4850,7	29.4914	45.5015	62.4809,2	
15.4503,1	30.4306	46.5170	63.4600	
	31.4246	47.4996	64.4238,1	
		48.4855		

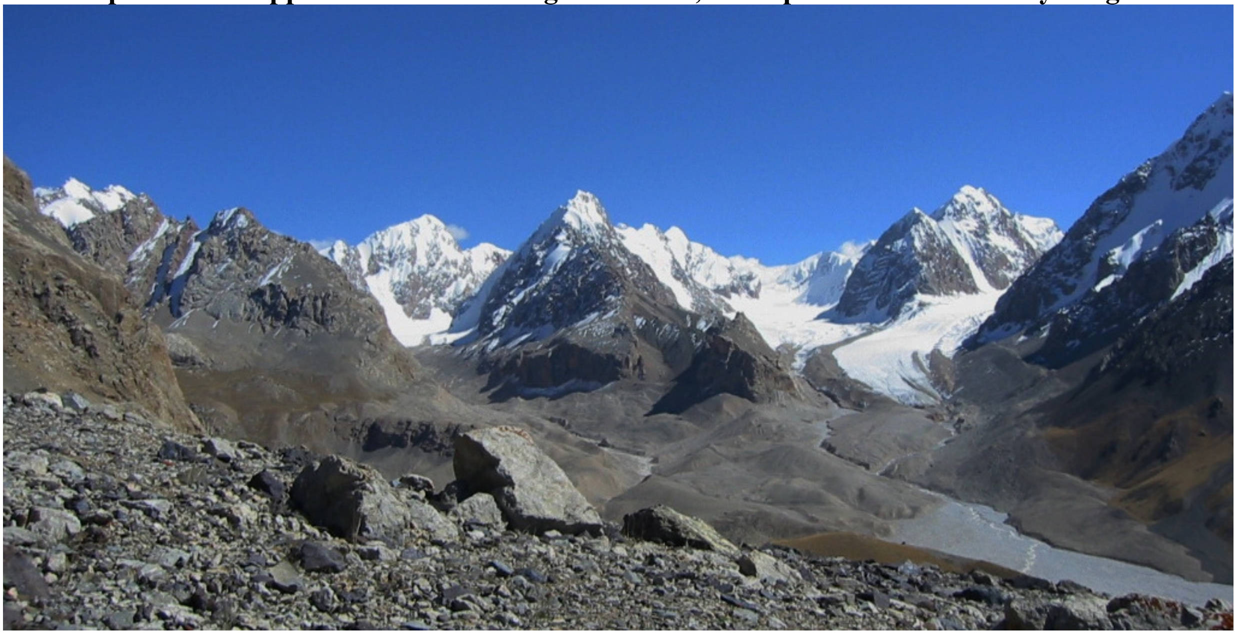
picture 46. BC in the upper reaches of Jagalmai river, Borkoldoy range

picture 48. Panorama of the Borkoldoy range

picture 49. Panoramic view of the Borkoldoy range

picture 50. The Western Kokshaal, view from the Borkoldoy range

picture 51. Upper reaches of the Jagalmai river, inner part of the Borkoldoy range



picture 52. Unnamed peaks of the Borkoldoy range

A.6.4) The Baybiche-Too range

Miscellaneous features

The Baïbiche-Too range is not necessarily easy to spot on the map because its margins to the east are very soft terrain south of the large depression of Naryn river and to the southwest of cities Naryn and Dostuk. The mountain system starts in effect as a continuation of the short range of Kara-Too. Including these low elevations above broad inter-mountainous depression, the extension is of 140 km, mainly North-East-South-West, and East-West in western area. We must then find the culminating peak, not designated as “Baïbiche” on the maps, as further West on 60 km wide, just north of Djaman-Too with its highest peak, unnamed 4337 m. In the same area is located, very closely, the Peak Aktash 4323 m and west, the Peak Tuyuk-Uyruk at 4247 m.

This mountain is separated from Djaman-Too south by the Kashkasu pass at 4008. The river Turasu separates into two areas this western part of Baïbiche-Too. In the immediate vicinity (a few kilometers) from the main ridge of crystalline Djaman-Too, we can assume a similar geology of sedimentary rocks in the periphery of the main crest. However we do not have more specific information on more solid rocks on the crest of Baïbiche-Too itself. However the main ridge presents a very rugged terrain, signs of a possible rocky strength. Moreover, unlike its big sputh sister, the range has no glacier on its northern slope.

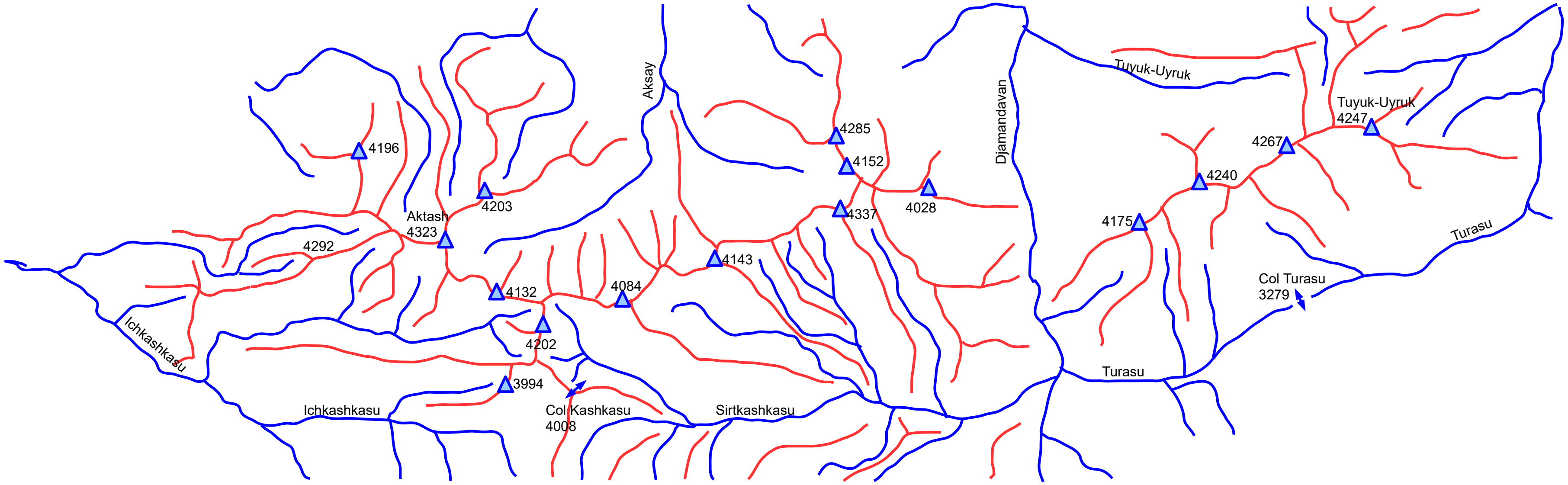
At the time of writing, there is no specific evidence on the potential for rock climbing in this part of the range. The close proximity of Djaman-Too still enables to use it as a mountain field of acclimatization.

The climate is identical to that of Djaman-Too with extreme ambient dry high altitude steppe.

Access to the mountain

The most direct access to the range is that of road Kaldamo pass through the crest of Ferghana. It offers easy access to the northern part of the village Djergetal (by Akkiya pass 2932m).

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-114 (south side), k43-102 (North Slope)


Aksay
Tuyuk-Uyruk
Djamandavan
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4285
Tuyuk-Uyruk
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4267
4152
4240
4203
4028
4337
Aktash
4323
4175
Turasu
4292
4143
Col Turasu
3279
4132
4084
4202
Ichkashkasu
Turasu
3994
Ichkashkasu
Col Kashkasu
4008
Sirtkashkasu

Orographic Scheme of Baybiche-Too range

A.6.5) The Chakyr-Korum range

Miscellaneous features

The Chakyr-Korum range is low extended in length by 30 km in the shape of a sickle, and 8 km at its widest. It is located north of the Borkoldoy range whose altitude is greater reaching 5000 m. The Chakyr-Korum culminates itself at 4558 m. The range is bordered to the north by the upper course and sources of Naryn river and the Jetim range. To the west the mountain is bordered by the eastern part of Naryn-Too and Karakol river and on the south by Borkoldoy and Djagalmay river.

The Chakyr-Korum takes its name from the nascent Chakyr-Korum river in the hollow of the range, in the cove of the sickle.

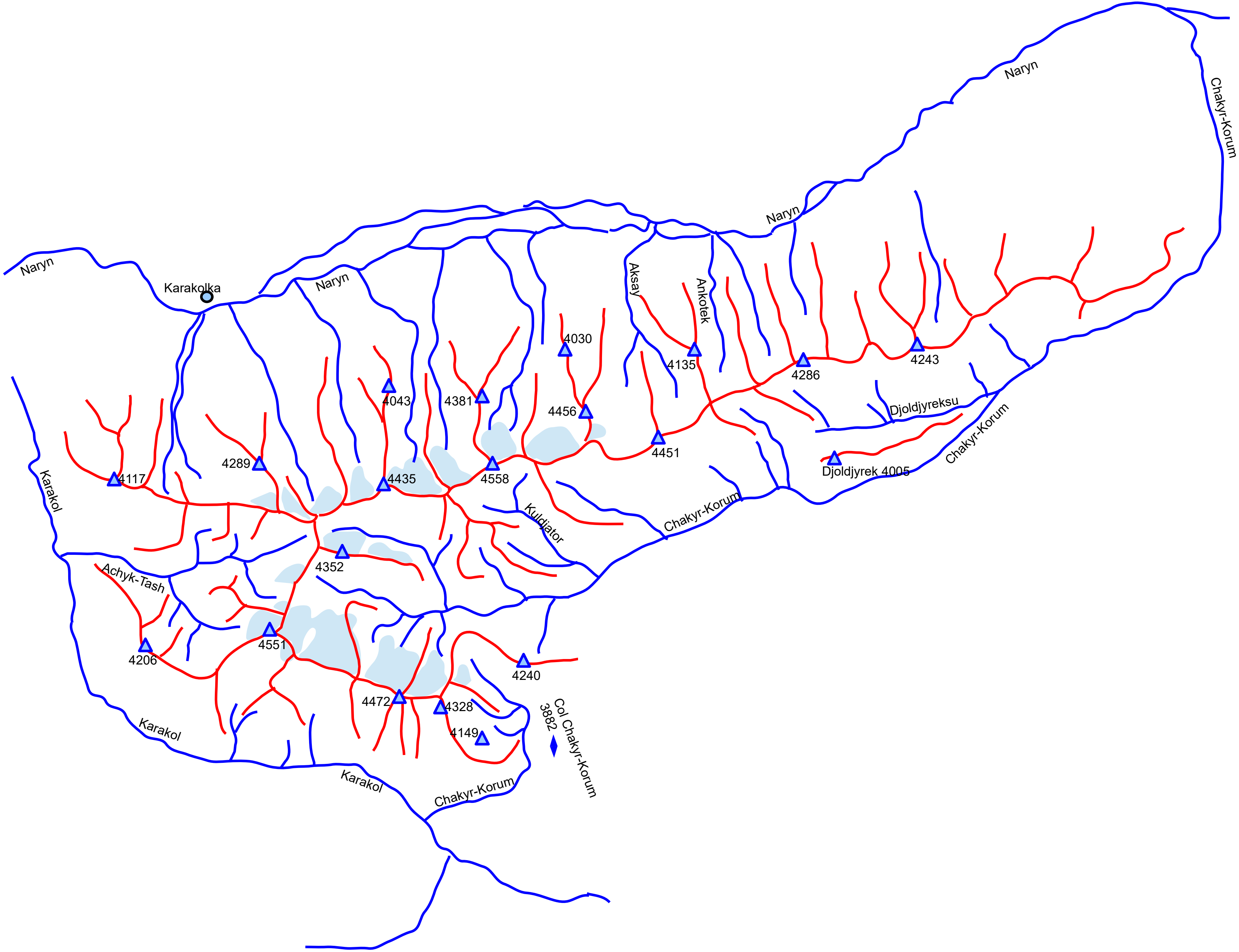
Valley bottoms varies between 3000 and 3500 meters. Glacial presence is essentially facing north on a twenties of glaciers. The terminal tongue begins around 3700-3800, forming relatively short and steep slopes of 600-700 meters. The south sides are rocky. Base camps can be established in most valleys with easy access because their background is relatively flat and short, less than a day's walk of approach. Only large valleys of Naryn and Chakyr-Korum have a pastoral activity, but no trail crosses the range itself.

There is no information on the alpine range opportunities but no doubt the isolation and exploration would make it an great adventure playground.

Access to the mountain

Access to mountain is identical to that leading to Jetim range and the northern part of the mountain of Borkoldoy, by the road from Barskaun town, Barskaun pass, Suyek pass and village Karasai. As in the Borkoldoy, it takes between 2-4 days to get there from the capital Bishkek. In this part of the territory of Kyrgyzstan, there is no permanent settlement. There is only hunting grounds or summer breeding farms and sheep, no permanent establishment in the year, the sïrts area as Kyrghyz people called it.

Cartography. 1/50 000th: k43-96-3 (western part); 1/100 000th: k43-95 (eastern part) k43-96 (western part); 1/200 00th: k43-24.


Naryn
Naryn
Chakyr-Korum
Naryn
Karakolka
Naryn
Aksay
Ankotek
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4456
4451
Djoldjyreksu
4289
4117
4435
4558
Djoldjyrek 4005
Chakyr-Korum
Karakol
Kuldjator
Chakyr-Korum
4352
Achyk-Tash
4206
4551
4240
4472
4328
4149
Col Chakyr-Korum
3882
Karakol
Karakol
Chakyr-Korum

Orographic Scheme of Chakyr-Korum range

A.6.6) The Djaman-Too mountain range

The mountain range of Djaman-Too (bad mountains in Kyrgyz) is a sub-range of the inner Tien-Shan. It is located northwest of Lake Chatyrkol in the Naryn region. It is an adjacent ridge to the Ferghana range bordered to the west and south by the basin of the Arpa River, north of the depression of the Alabuga (formed by the merging of Pichak and Arpa rivers). It4s an east-west extension of about 70 km away. It rises to a height of 4718-4737 m (approximate altitude on the map) and has three distinct apical parts: in the West with the Pic Chon-Tash 4553 m, in the center with the Peak 4718 m and Kashka-su (4671m) and is separated by the Djamandavan Pass (3803 m), Pic 4716 to the east. The apical ridge rises above wide semi-desert steppe high altitude depressions (slow rise about 2500-3300) to the north and south.

Various characteristics of the ridge

The Djaman-Too is a relatively narrow ridge of mountains. It consists of sedimentary and metamorphic rocks of relatively good quality and has a little glacier system on these northern slopes as often in the Tien-Shan from these altitudes (4500m-4800m). The southern slopes are often very steep, solid rock or disrupted one.

The climate here is extreme continental distant away from influences of the humid streams of the Ferghana valley through the barrier of the western mountains (same name Ferghana). The steppe vegetation here is rarefied by drought and by different altitude of Alpine stage.

All rivers are tributaries of the Arpa river which becomes Alabuga to the north. On the north side tributary glaciers feed the torrents of Ishkashkasu (west) and Sirtkashkasu (east) in the western and central part of the range, separated by Kashkasu pass (4008m). In the eastern part of the two northern rivers Turasu are separated by the same name pass (Turasu, 3279 m). South side, all tributaries of the Arpa are (from west to east): Minbugu, Borly, Kashaksu, Arpanyk-Kashkasu, Sasyk, Karago (east and west), Djamandavan, Ucharcha, Byronochan, Kodjagyl, Sokurbulak, and Djamanty.

Access to the range

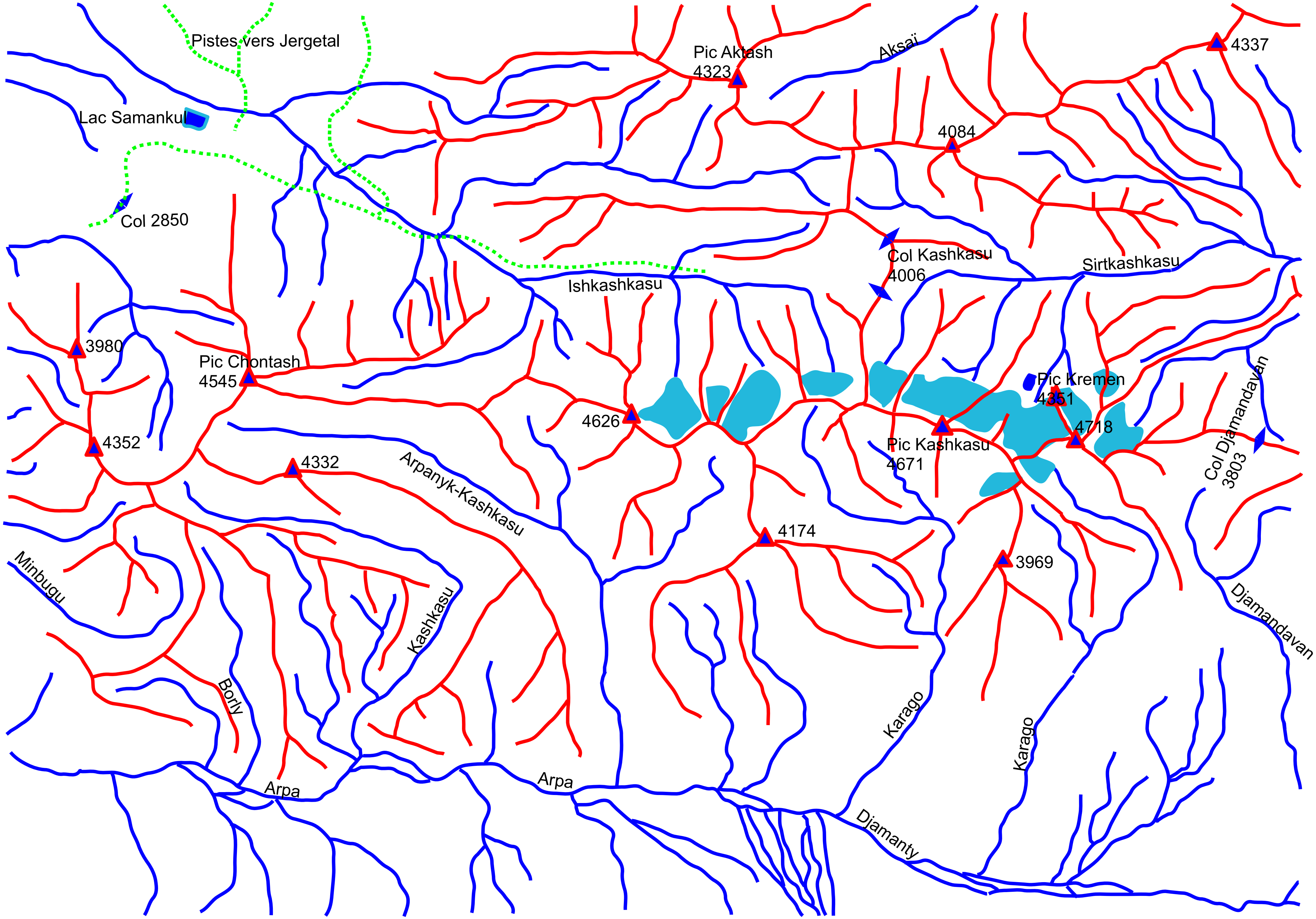
The most direct access to the range can be done on north side by the village of Jergetal. This village of Jergetal and eastern end of the Djamn-Too can be reached in a whole day in 4X4 or régular car either from Osh and Bishkek. From Osh or Jalal-Abad one could take the road to Kaldamo pass and the Kugart valley, when pass is out of snow in summer, for instance in taxi or even hicthhiking (don't miss costs participation with the driver) until Jergetal village. This is also a possible connexion to the distant Naryn town. Northern foothill is then accessible by trails on the mountains in southern direction along the dry river beds. Then the various northern valleys are reachable on foot around the Kaskkasu pass.

History of the massif

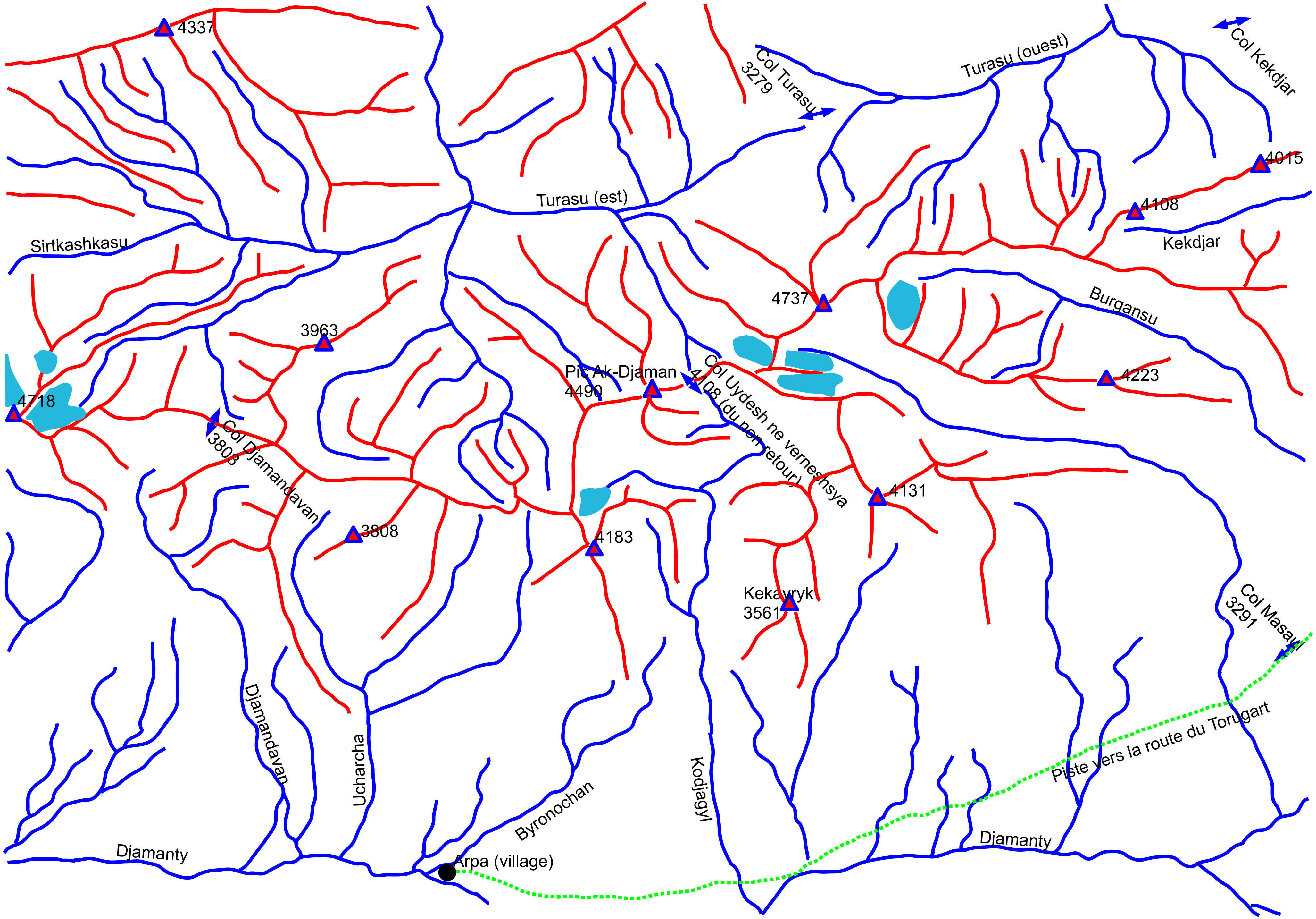
The first and only known to the exploration of these mountains was conducted in 2007 by the team of Katya Ananyeva Dmitry Martynenko and Dmitry Shapovalov whose goal was to make a first exploration of the western part of Djaman-Too and the eastern slopes of the South Ferghana from the Arpa Valley. They first of all have climbed The Chontash East Peak (4553 or 4547 on the map). The route of ascent has a little ice and mixed face 2B/3A in russian cotation, maximum 50°-60° slopes. An attempt was unsuccessful on the "difficult" Kashkasu (4671 m), followed a few days later the first ascent of a rocky peak named Kramen (4351m, max 5c, 4a-4c average, D-, one day ascent). The party climbed the 500-meter elevated west ridge of Kramen in a day, belaying the first four pitches to the crux, after which they moved together with intermittent runners every 10-20 meters. Most of the route was 5.5/5.6 but the key pitch was 5.9. Further east Ak-Jaman (4488m) was climbed by a 8 pitches with ice tilt 60° to 70°, followed by large crevasses leading to the broad summit. The Jamantay has numerous peaks from 4500-4800m and, typically for many mountains of that altitude in Kyrghyzstan, sports glaciated northern faces, while the southern slopes are rocky or scree covered.

Conclusion: lack of additional information, we can consider that the highest peaks still have not been climbed, the exploration of almost all of the range yet largely has to be done. And from the evidence, these mountains do not seem devoid of technical interest.

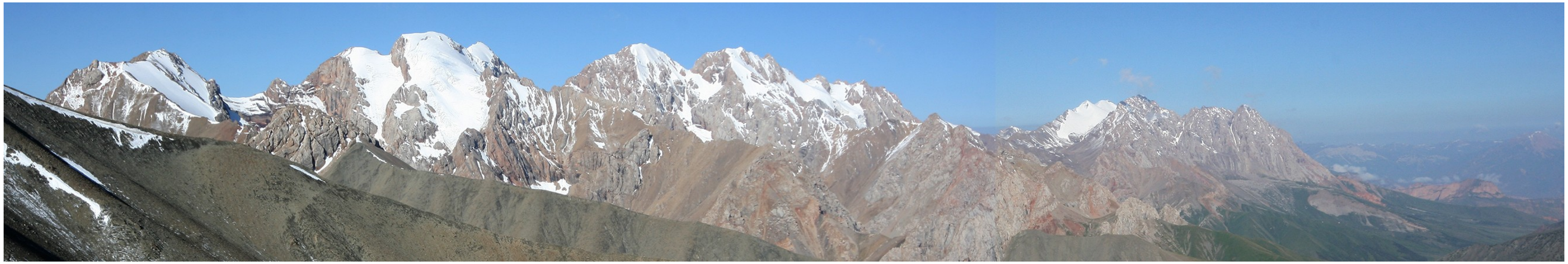
Cartography. Maps 1/100 000th: k43-113, k43-114 and k43-115 (eastern part bording Karasu depression and Torugart Pass Road) ; 1/200 000th: k43-27.


Pistes vers Jergetal
Lac Samankul
Col 2850
Pic Aktash
4323
Aksaï
4337
4084
Col Kashkasu
4006
Sirtkashkasu
Ishkashkasu
3980
Pic Chontash
4545
4352
4332
Arpanyk-Kashkasu
4626
Pic Kremen
4351
4718
Pic Kashkasu
4671
Col Djamandavan
3803
4174
3969
Djamandavan
Minbugu
Kashkasu
Borly
Arpa
Arpa
Karago
Karago
Djamanty

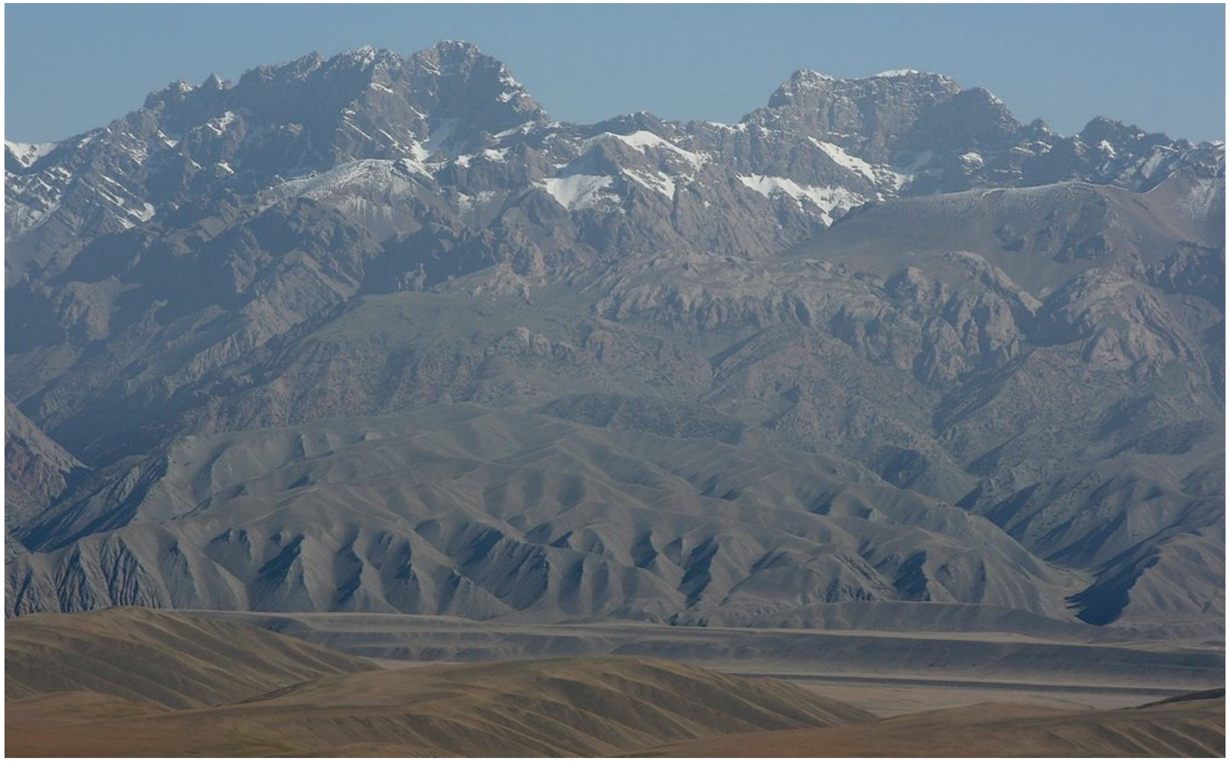
Orographic scheme of Djaman-Too (western part)


4337
Col Turasu
3279
Turasu (ouest)
Col Kekdjar
4015
4108
Kekdjar
Turasu (est)
Sirtkashkasu
4737
Burgansu
3963
Pic Ak-Djaman
4490
Col Uydesh ne verneshsya
4108 (du non retour)
4223
4718
Col Djamandavan
3808
3808
4131
4183
Kekayryk
3561
Col Masaul
3291
Piste vers la route du Torugart
Djamandavan
Ucharcha
Byronochan
Kodjagyl
Djamanty
Djamanty
Arpa (village)

Orographic scheme of Djaman-Too (eastern part)



picture 86. Northern slope of Djaman-Too (courtesy of Dmitry Shapovalov)



picture 87. Southern slope of Djaman-Too (courtesy of Dmitry Shapovalov)

A.6.8) Jetim and Jetimbel ranges (figures 17, 18, 19 and 20)

The ranges are situated to the south of the central part of the Terskey Ala-Too ridge (Barskaun Valley), North of upper stream of Naryn River and to the west of Suek pass. There is a road over the Barskaun and Suek passes to Karasai village. This road passes through the Jetimbel range. To the south, separated by the valley of the river Djamanechki, the Jetim range, no well marked on the maps, is extending to the west, bordering on the Naryn river (Syr-Daria). The total extension of these two ridges, oriented East-West, is about 120 km. In the heart of Kyrgyzstan, it is the region of the high plateaux often named "Sïrt".

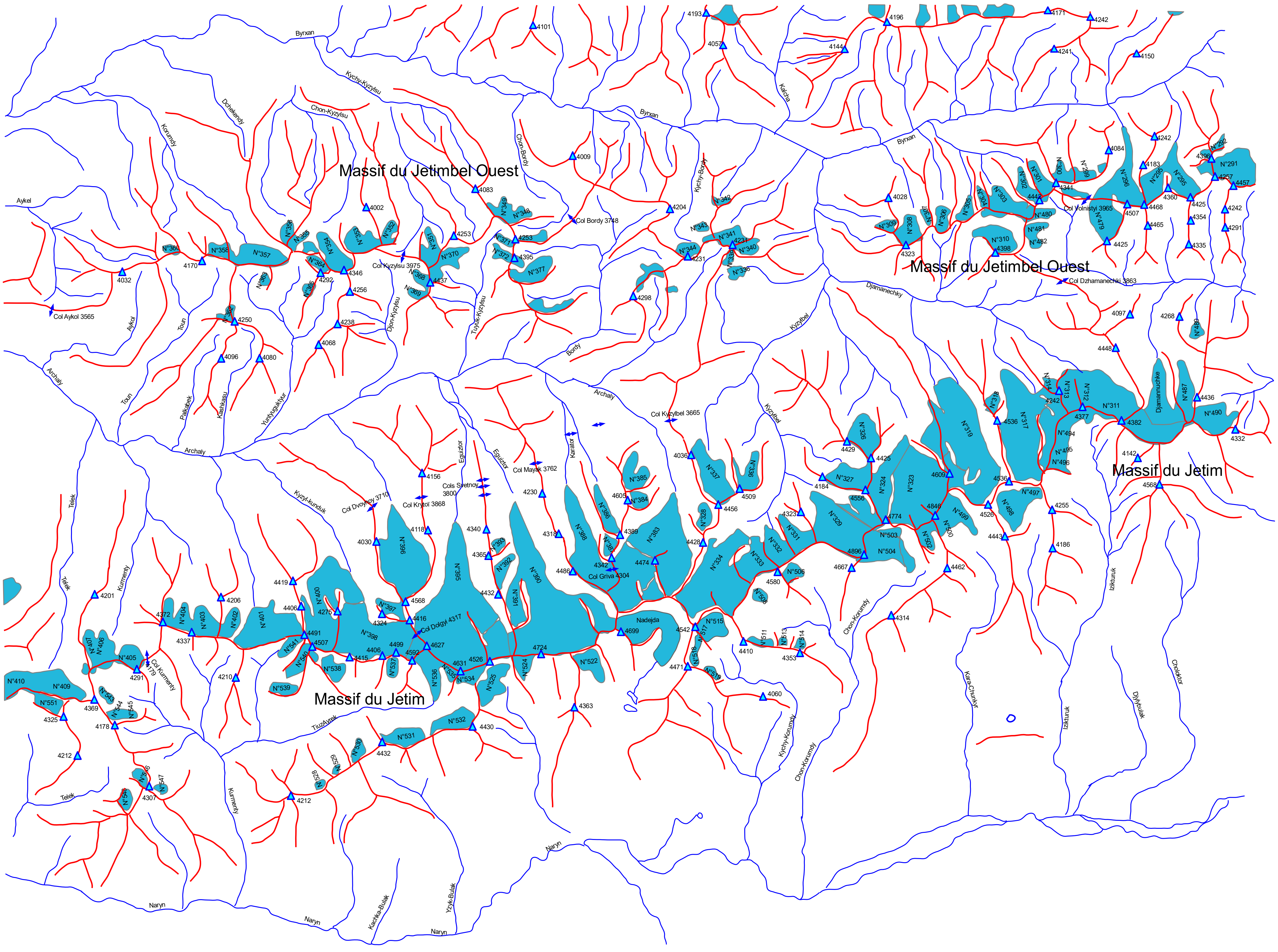
The ranges were not well explored by climbers before. But the region is year by year more visited by tourists, by its ease of access. The climbers began to explore it more seriously from 2009. In 2010 and after, the British organization "Adventure Peaks" organized several expeditions to conquer unexplored summits.

There is great number of peaks over 4,000 m high with easy routes. The highest point of the Jetim is at 4896 m, the Jetimbel at 4590 m. Access to the area is made easy by those roads and mountain tracks borrowed by the all-terrain vehicles of breeders. Outside these tracks, progression is hardly possible. We reach the western part of these ranges from the town of Naryn towards the Malyi Naryn river. The eastern and south-eastern part is reached via the Suek Pass (from Barskaun) following the road along the Taragai River. The northeast part is accessible by the Barskaun pass and the very beautiful downstream of the Arabel river. We take the road to the Kumtor mine. The trail crosses the Arabel and slopes to the south to reach the eastern end of the Jetimbel, reaching the entrance to the two valleys of Maytor and Kichi-Maytor. At the foot of Barskaun pass, a runway runs westwards to upstream the Arabel. The first 14 kilometers runs along the high plateau towards the Arabel Pass, then descends to the upper reaches of the Burkan River. It is possible to reach the North-West slope of Jetymbel with a beautiful glacial settlement.

Therefore the approach of these mountains is easy from the central southern part of Terskey Ala-Too. The average walking time from the end of the road to the base of the ascent is often short, 1-3 hours and in some parts it takes 4-5 hours of walking. The southern slopes of the ridges are often rocky and dry with little snow and ice. On the northern slopes there are small glaciers that allow good access to the passes and the summits. In practically all valleys base camps can be set up in convenient locations. The massif is in the center of Tien-Shan, far from the borders and its access is free of any special authorization.

The ranges are in the border area and special permit is required.

*Cartography***.** Jetimbel maps 1/100,000 k43-84, Jetim k43-94, k43-95 and k43-96.


Massif du Jetimbel Ouest
Massif du Jetimbel Ouest
Massif du Jetim
Massif du Jetim
Byrxan
Byrxan
Byrxan
Kychy-Kyzylsu
Chon-Kyzylsu
Dchekendy
Korumdy
Chon-Bordy
Kychy-Bordy
Kalcha
Aykel
Aykol
Toun
Toun
Palkabek
Kashkasu
Yurtyuguktyur
Archaly
Archaly
Archaly
Djon-Kyzylsu
Tuyuk-Kyzylsu
Bordy
Kyzylbel
Kyzylbel
Djamanechky
Djamannuchke
Telek
Telek
Telek
Kurmenty
Kurmenty
Kyzyl-kunduk
Eguiztor
Eguiztor
Karator
Chon-Korumdy
Chon-Korumdy
Kychy-Korumdy
Kara-Chunkyr
Izikturuk
Izikturuk
Djylybulak
Choloktor
Naryn
Naryn
Naryn
Naryn
Kachka-Bulak
Yzyk-Bulak
TiuzAyryk
Nadejda
Col Aykol 3565
Col Kyzylsu 3975
Col Bordy 3748
Col Volnistyi 3965
Col Dzhamanechki 3863
Col Kyzylbel 3665
Col Mayak 3762
Cols Svetnoy 3800
Col Krytoï 3868
Col Dvoynoy 3710
Col Dolgyi 4317
Col Griva 4304
Col Kurmenty 4179
4101
4193
4057
4196
4144
4171
4242
4241
4150
4009
4083
4002
4253
4253
4395
4204
4231
4231
4298
4032
4170
4292
4346
4256
4437
4250
4238
4068
4096
4080
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4323
4398
4442
4341
4084
4242
4183
4396
4257
4457
4360
4425
4354
4335
4242
4291
4507
4468
4465
4425
4097
4268
4448
4036
4509
4456
4429
4425
4184
4556
4609
4774
4846
4536
4242
4377
4382
4436
4332
4142
4568
4526
4536
4255
4443
4186
4462
4896
4667
4323
4428
4580
4314
4156
4230
4118
4030
4340
4365
4318
4605
4389
4342
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4486
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4324
4568
4416
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4507
4406
4415
4499
4592
4627
4631
4526
4724
4699
4542
4410
4353
4471
4060
4363
4430
4432
4212
4201
4206
4372
4337
4210
4291
4369
4325
4178
4212
4307
N°360
N°358
N°357
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N°355
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N°353
N°352
N°351
N°370
N°349
N°348
N°371
N°372
N°377
N°364
N°365
N°363
N°368
N°369
N°362
N°342
N°343
N°344
N°341
N°339
N°340
N°338
N°309
N°308
N°307
N°306
N°305
N°304
N°303
N°302
N°301
N°300
N°299
N°296
N°295
N°293
N°292
N°291
N°480
N°481
N°482
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N°310
N°489
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N°311
N°487
N°490
N°319
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N°323
N°499
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N°503
N°502
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N°336
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N°331
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N°333
N°334
N°506
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N°383
N°396
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N°541
N°540
N°538
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N°525
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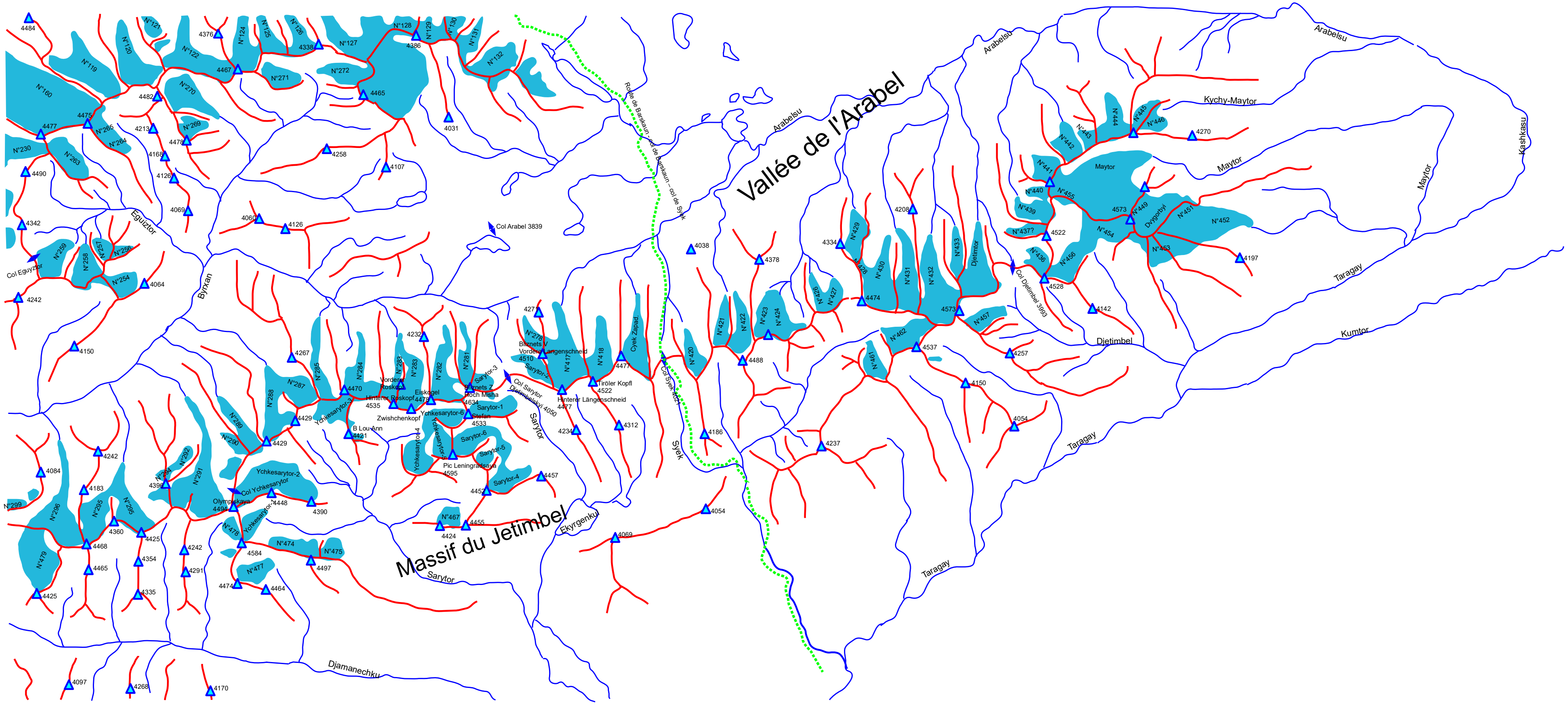
N°522
N°515
N°517
N°518
N°519
N°511
N°513
N°514
N°532
N°531
N°530
N°529
N°528
N°407
N°406
N°405
N°410
N°409
N°551
N°543
N°544
N°545
N°546
N°547
N°548

figure 17. Orographic map of Jetim Range


Vallée de l'Arabel
Massif du Jetimbel
Arabelsu
Route de Barskaun - col de Barskaun - col de Syek
Col Arabel 3839
Col Eguiztor
Eguiztor
Byrxan
Syek
Col Syek 4121
Sarytor
Col Sarytor
Ekyrgenkul
Djamanechku
Taragay
Kumtor
Djetimbel
Col Djetimbel 3993
Maytor
Kychy-Maytor
Kashkasu
Dvygorbyl
Col Ychkesarytor
Olympiyskaya 4494
Pic Leningradskaya 4595
Tiroler Kopfl 4522
Hinterer Längenschneid 4477
Zwishchenkopf
Eiskogel
Vordere Roskopf
Hinterer Roskopf
Ychkesarytor-2
Sarytor-1
Sarytor-4
Sarytor-5
Sarytor-6
Syek Zapad
4573
4474
4537
4528
4522
4465
4386
4338
4467
4482
4477
4475
4484
4490
4342
4242
4150
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4237
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4425
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4335
4291
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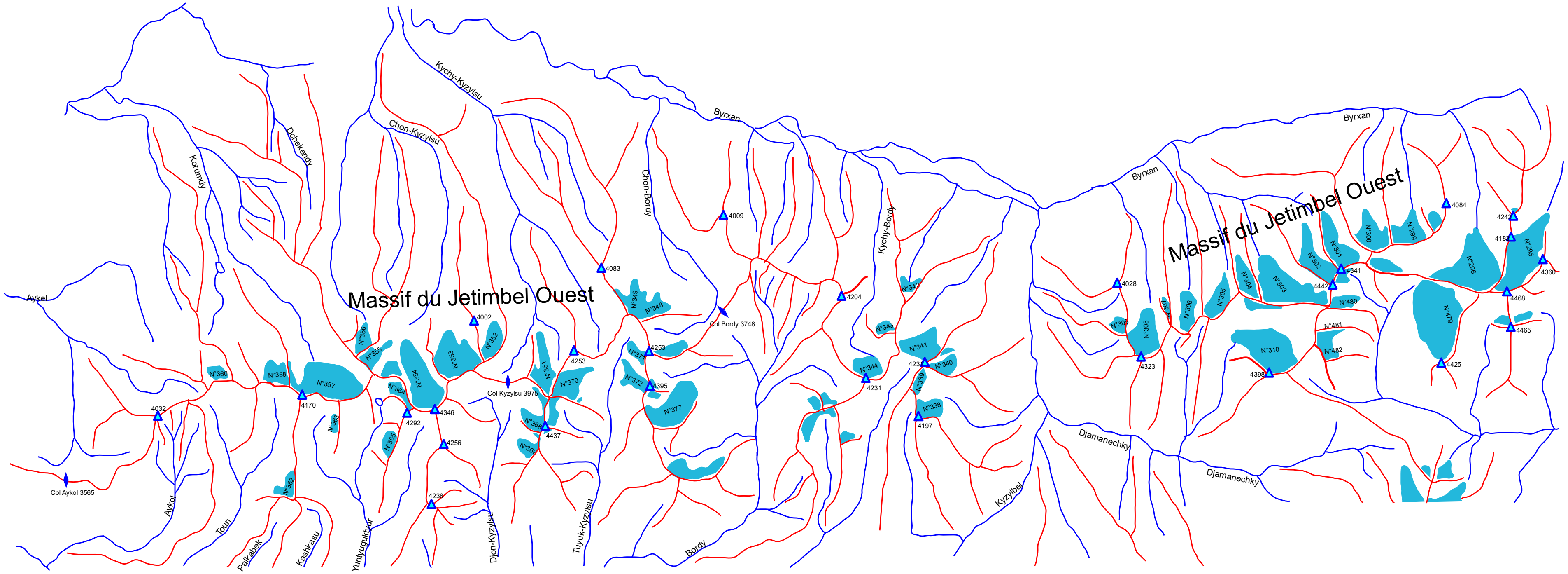
4107
4258
4126
4060
4038

figure 18. Orographic scheme of Jetimbel range


Massif du Jetimbel Ouest
Massif du Jetimbel Ouest
Aykel
Korumdy
Dchekendy
Kychy-Kyzylsu
Chon-Kyzylsu
Byrxan
Byrxan
Byrxan
Chon-Bordy
Kychy-Bordy
Aykol
Toun
Palkabek
Kashkasu
Yuntyuguktyur
Djon-Kyzylsu
Tuyuk-Kyzylsu
Bordy
Kyzylbel
Djamanechky
Djamanechky
Col Aykol 3565
Col Kyzylsu 3975
Col Bordy 3748
4032
4170
4292
4346
4256
4238
4002
4253
4437
4083
4253
4395
4009
4204
4231
4232
4197
4028
4323
4398
4442
4341
4084
4242
4182
4360
4468
4465
4425
N°360
N°358
N°357
N°356
N°355
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N°353
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N°363
N°365
N°362
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N°302
N°301
N°300
N°299
N°296
N°295
N°480
N°481
N°482
N°310
N°479

figure 19. Orographic scheme of Jetimbel range, western part

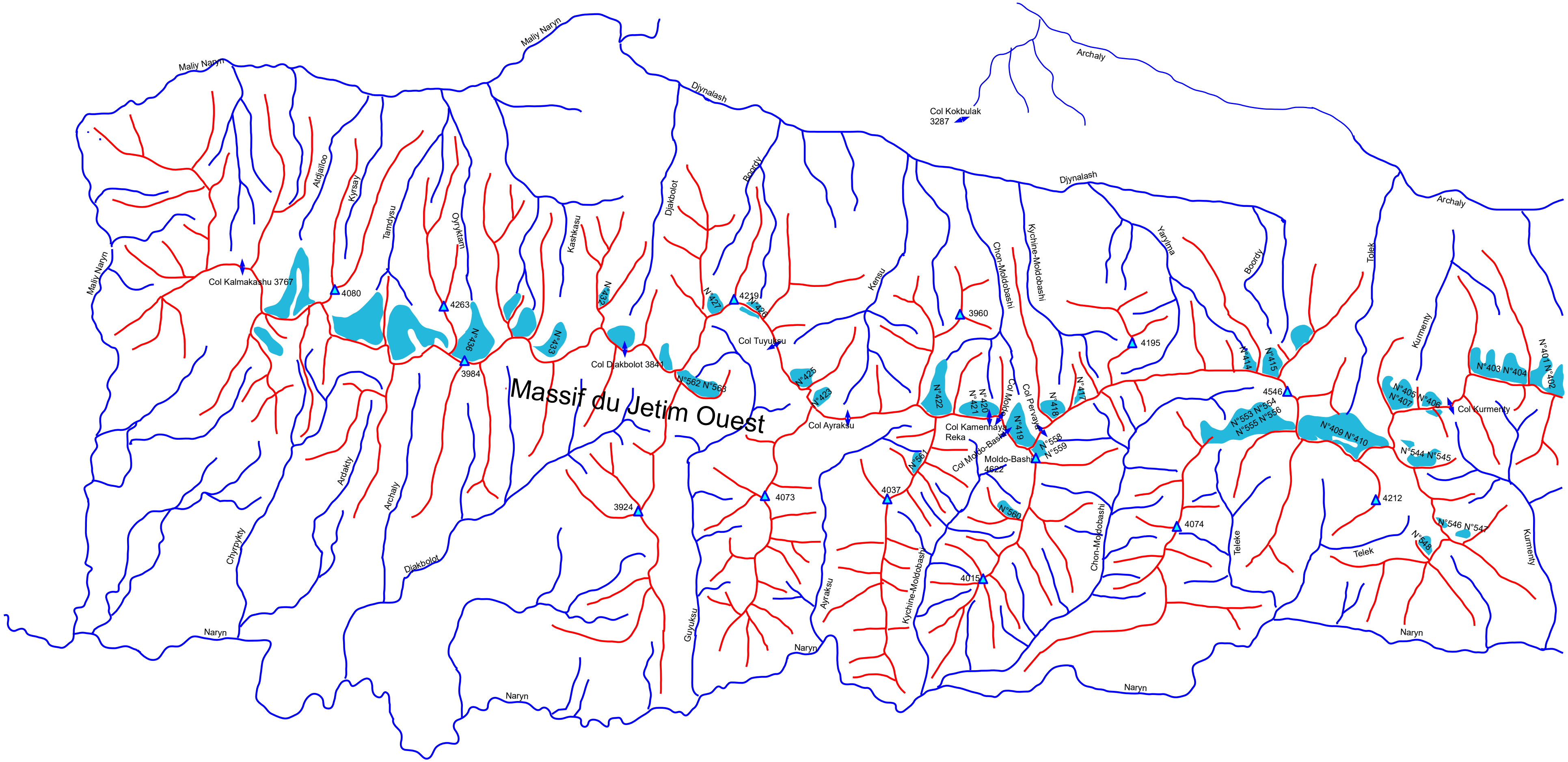

Maliy Naryn
Maliy Naryn
Djynalash
Archaly
Col Kokbulak
3287
Djynalash
Archaly
Maliy Naryn
Atdjailoo
Kyrsay
Tamdysu
Oryyktam
Kashkasu
Djakbolot
Boordy
Kensu
Chon-Moldobashi
Kychine-Moldobashi
Yanyima
Boordy
Telek
Kurmenty
N°401 N°402
N°403 N°404
Col Kalmakashu 3767
4080
4263
N°436
3984
N°433
N°432
Col Djakbolot 3841
N°427
4219
N°426
Col Tuyuksu
N°562 N°563
N°425
N°423
Col Ayraksu
3960
4195
N°414
N°415
4546
N°422
N°420
N°421
Col Molodo
Col Pervaya
N°419
N°418
N°417
Col Kamennaya Reka
Col Moldo-Bashi
Moldo-Bashi
4622
N°558
N°559
N°553 N°554
N°555 N°556
N°409 N°410
N°405 N°406
N°407
Col Kurmenty
N°544 N°545
Massif du Jetim Ouest
Ardakty
Archaly
Chyrpykty
Djakbolot
3924
4073
4037
N°561
N°560
4015
4074
4212
N°546 N°547
N°548
Teleke
Telek
Kurmenty
Chon-Moldobashi
Kychine-Moldobashi
Ayraksu
Guyuksu
Naryn
Naryn
Naryn
Naryn
Naryn

figure 20. Orographic scheme of Jetim range, Western part

View over the Jetimbel Range from Arabel Pass

Snowfields on the southern slopes (Right), Glaciers and Snowfields on the Northern spurs (Left)

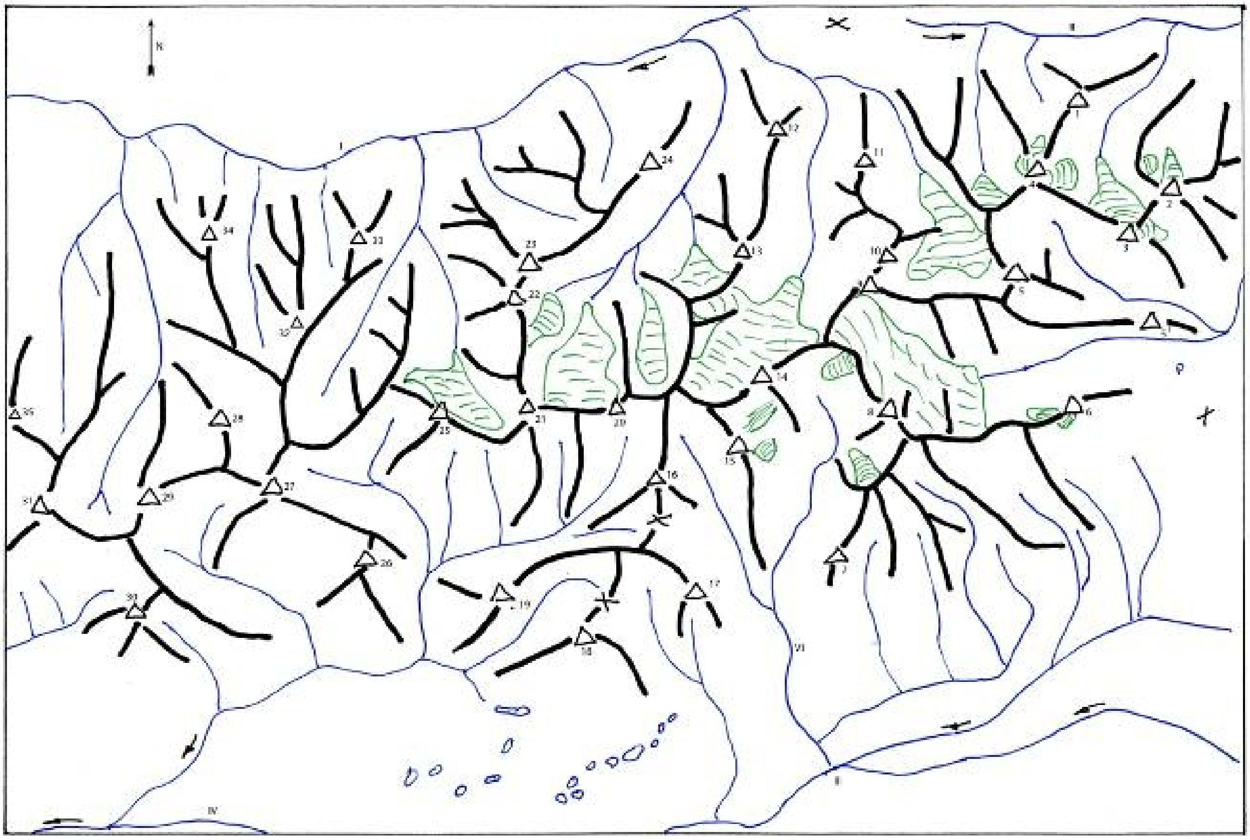
View over the ridge of Jetim and Jetimbel

A.6.7) Jany-Jer range (figures 13 and 13-1, photo 59)

It is situated to the east of the Atbashi range as its continuation and divided by Kindy pass. The region is administrated by Atbashinskiy raion of the Naryn oblast. The best climbing is in the eastern part. The range is barely explored. The first climbs were done in the extreme eastern part of the range in the Mustyr canyon (figures 17) by Pat Littlejohn expedition in 2003. There are about 50 unclimbed peaks over 4,000m in the ridge. The access is quite easy from Naryn town via Akmuz village and Kindy pass to the river Myrdrym valley. In the valley the road goes along the southern slope of the range. Practically all canyons of the southern slope can be accessed by off-road vehicles and have good grounds for base camps. It's about 1-3 hour hike from base camp grounds to the climbing start. Routes are on rock or combined, rarely on snow-ice. The northern slopes of the range are accessed via Akmuz village and further to the upper reaches of the Atbashi river. No special permits are required for climbing here. On the way to the area the Atbashi river will have to be crossed several times and in some places there is no other way but drive the riverbed. Only off-road vehicles have capacity to access. In summer time only all-wheel drive trucks as GAZ 66, ZIL131, URAL or KAMAZ can cross the river because depth of wade is 60 cm and more. To this day the northern slopes of the range are still unexplored.

The southern part of the range is in the border area and special permit is required.

*Cartography***. *Maps*** 1/100,000 k43-107.


N
I
II
IV
VI
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30
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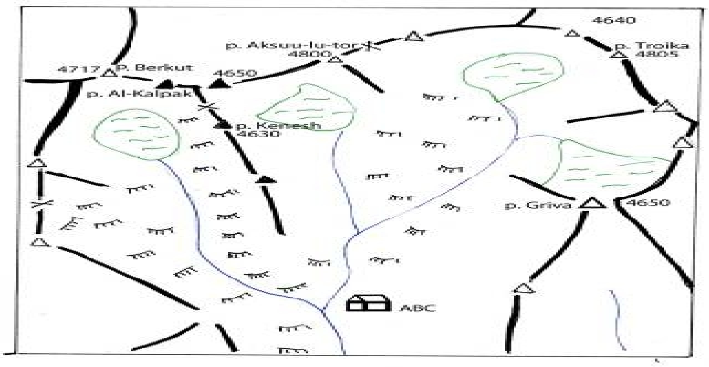
32
33
34
35

figures 13 Orographic map of Jany-Jer range

Peaks
1.4224,8
2.4531
3.4630
4.4607,3
5.4651 – 5¹. 3945,7
6.4415,4
7.4144,9
8.4790,8
9.4782,1
10.4844,1
11.4166,2
12.4111,3
13.4634,9
14.4783,5
15.4620
16.4540
17.4060,8
18.4185,7
19.4050,0
20.4580
21.4726,8
22.4398

Peaks (next)
23.4519
24.4267,4
25.Muzbulak, 4726,3
26.4153
27.4662
28.4570
29.4690
30.4169
31.4601
32.4356
33.3967,4
34.3906,9
35.4469

Rivers
I.Djalder
II.Djanydjer
III.Karagherme
IV.Aksai
V.Korumdusu
VI.Mustyr


4640
p. Aksuu-lu-tor
4800
p. Troika
4805
4717
P. Berkut
4650
p. Al-Kalpak
p. Kenesh
4630
p. Griva
4650
ABC

figures 13-1 Orographic map of Mustyr canyon

A.6.9) The ranges of Jumgal-Too and Oy-Kaing

Miscellaneous features

The crest of Jumgal-Too is a succession of mountains of medium altitude (4075 m, be careful altitudes on map can vary) of Inner Tien-Shan. It extends about sixty kilometers, over east-west direction on its eastern part, North-East-South-West on the western part. Its width is low extension in the order of 15 km. It is located to the east of Suusamyr valley and northwest of the city of Djumgal. The mountain is immediately south of Karamanyok mountains which it is separated by the pass of Suyek.

The hydrographic network of Jumgal-Too consists in the north by the Suyek River, east by the course of Djoo-Djiurek and south by the Oy-Kaing. At the far Southwest, its foothills are bathed by the Kekemeren, a major tributary of Naryn.

Most large valleys around the mountain are located at 2500 m. The Djumgal-Too reliefs are rather soft, with flat-bottomed valleys or low slope, often have a hollow profile and provide easy access to the ridge by various passes used in pastoral activities. Some small glaciers lodge in the north faces at altitudes exceeding 3900 m. Here the surroundings is slowly mineralized with some cliffs on the highest ridges (lateral spurs or main ridge).

The valley of the Oy-Kaing (or Oy-Gaing) separates the range that of Oy-Kaing. The latter appear to be more “alpine” range, culminating first at a higher altitude 4273 m. Glaciers are slightly larger there. There are also less passes through the range. The orientation of the range of Oy-Kaing is considerably Northeast-Southwest, the range extension is also less about thirty kilometers.

The geology of Djumgal-Too and Oy-Kaing is particularly complex, mixing sedimentary, metamorphic and granitic: schists, mica-schist and granite. The climate of the region, more isolated from the influences of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too, is slightly drier and closer to that of high-altitude steppes to the south. Some glacial presence still indicates an acceptable level of precipitation, far from the drought of range further south as Kekkirim-Too and Djaman-Too.

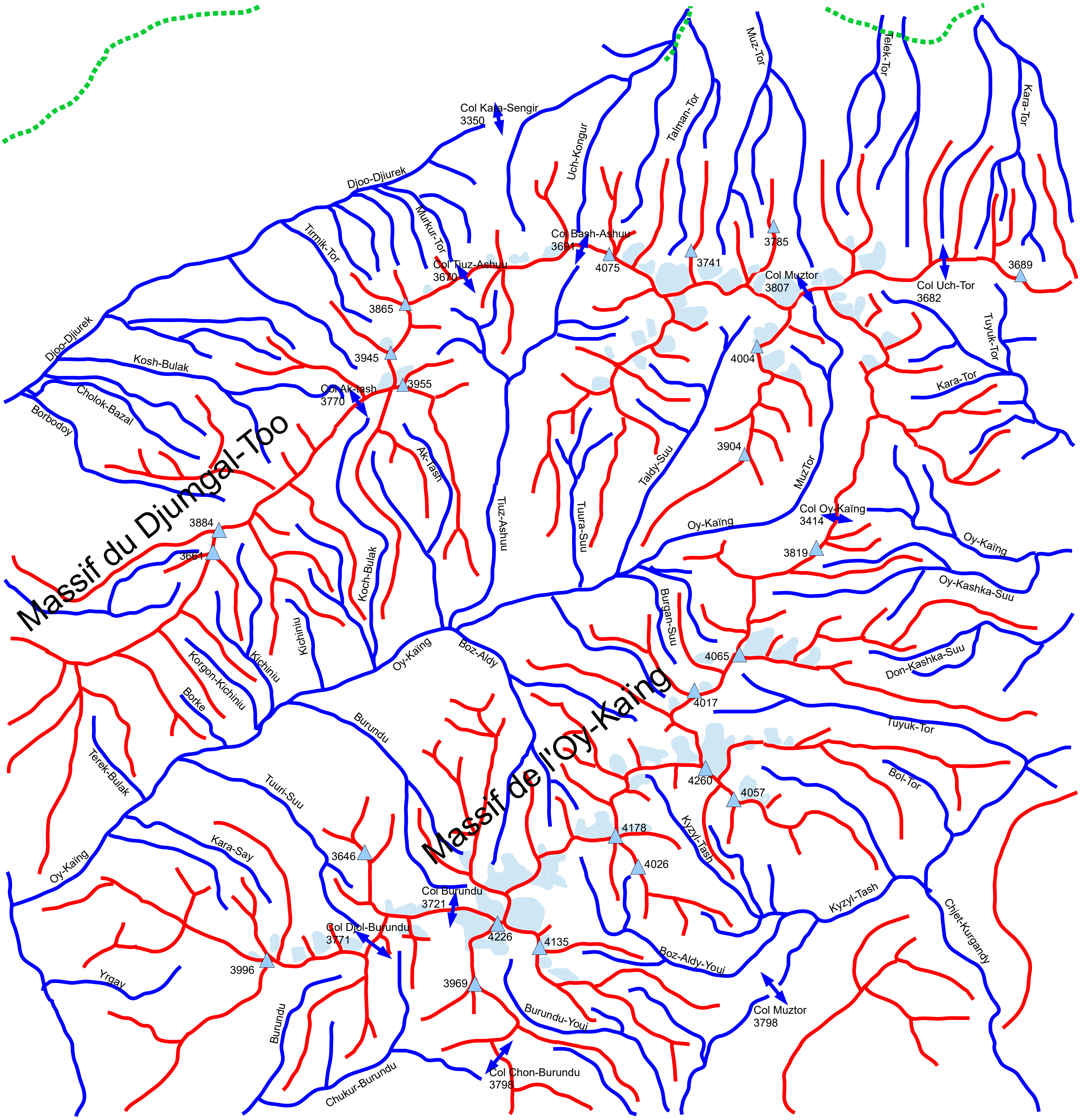
On the slopes of the mountains are found grazing meadows where grow juniper and steppe shrubs, in more humid areas of medium altitude it encounters few forests of Tien Shan spruce.

Again nothing was said about hiking and mountaineering in this sector. Here are many criteria undeniably conducive to discovery.

Access to the mountain

Two accesses are possible from the north by the large Suusamyr Valley, following the paths along river Karakol. By road via the beginning of the gorge of the Kekemeren river, it gives access to the slopes of inland Djoo-Djiurek and Oy-Kaing valleys. The southern slope of the Oy-Kaing can be reached by road Ribache-Kochkor-Kyzart Pass-Djumgal and villages Bash-Kurgandy.

Cartography. 1/50 000th: k43-65-2, k43-66-1 (Djumgal-Too) 1/100 000th: k43-65 (Djumgal-Too and Oy-Kaing) k43-66 (Djumgal-Too) 1/200 000th: k43-15.


Col Kara-Sengir
3350
Djoo-Djiurek
Uch-Kongur
Talman-Tor
Muz-Tor
Telek-Tor
Kara-Tor
Tirmik-Tor
Murkur-Tor
Col Bash-Ashuu
3691
4075
3741
3785
Col Tiuz-Ashuu
3670
Col Muztor
3807
Col Uch-Tor
3682
3689
Djoo-Djiurek
3865
Tuyuk-Tor
Kosh-Bulak
3945
4004
Cholok-Bazal
Col Ak-tash
3770
3955
Kara-Tor
Borbodoy
Massif du Djumgal-Too
Ak-Tash
3904
Taldy-Suu
MuzTor
Col Oy-Kaïng
3414
3884
Oy-Kaïng
Tiuz-Ashuu
Tuura-Suu
3819
Oy-Kaïng
3661
Koch-Bulak
Oy-Kashka-Suu
Burgan-Suu
Kichiniu
Kichiniu
Oy-Kaïng
Boz-Aldy
4065
Don-Kashka-Suu
Korgon-Kichiniu
4017
Borke
Burundu
Tuyuk-Tor
Massif de l'Oy-Kaïng
Terek-Bulak
4260
Bol-Tor
Tuuri-Suu
4057
4178
Kara-Say
Kyzyl-Tash
3646
4026
Oy-Kaïng
Col Burundu
3721
Kyzyl-Tash
Col Djol-Burundu
3771
4226
4135
Chjet-Kurgandy
Boz-Aldy-Youi
3996
Yrgay
3969
Col Muztor
3798
Burundu
Burundu-Youi
Col Chon-Burundu
3798
Chukur-Burundu

Orographic Scheme of Djumgal-Too and Oy-Kaïng ranges

A.6.10) The Kabak-Too range

Miscellaneous features

The Kabak-Too mountain is low extended about 40 km from East to West. It is located just north of the largest range of Moldo-Too whose altitude is comparable. The Kabak-Too culminates at 4144 m. Some 4,000 others are also close to this peak. The range is bordered on the west by the Kekemeren River, a tributary of Naryn and North by the river Djumgal. The south side is flanked by the waters of Myn Kush.

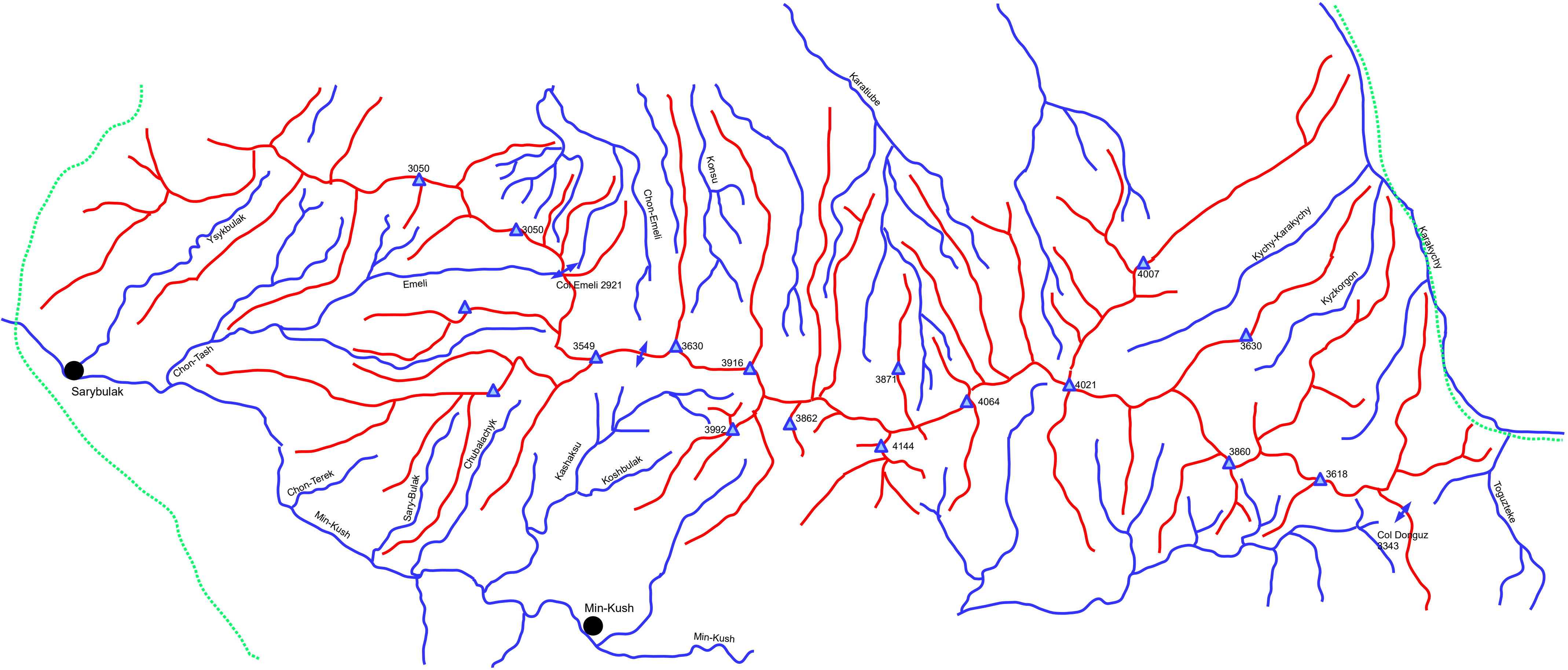
The north slope has some traces of small glaciers and permanent snowfields. Also the mountain is less dry than its neighbors to the south. The range has no major alpine issue, but should be well suited to hiking and meet the pastoral life on its various sides.

Several hiking trail reach the passes of Donguz (southeast), Emeli (east) and Kashkasu at the center. The apical edges of the Peak 4144 have is a much rocky and rudged sector. There is no information on the strength of the rock formations in the area.

Access to the mountain

Access to range can be achieved either by road Ribache northwest, arriving at the village of Ak-Tash, either by Suusamyr road (since Bishkek) and Kekemeren Valley. From the junction of two roads (Aral, Ak-Tash) can be reached Sarybulak east and Min-Kush to the south.

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-77 (east), k43-78 (west)


3050
3050
Ysykbulak
Emeli
Col Emeli 2921
Chon-Emeli
Konsu
Karatiube
Sarybulak
Chon-Tash
3549
3630
3916
3992
3862
3871
4144
4064
4021
4007
Kychy-Karakychy
Kyzkorgon
Karakychy
3630
3860
3618
Col Donguz
3343
Toguzteke
Chon-Terek
Min-Kush
Sary-Bulak
Chubalachyk
Kashaksu
Koshbulak
Min-Kush
Min-Kush

Orographic Scheme of Kabak-Too range

A.6.11) The Kapka-Tash range

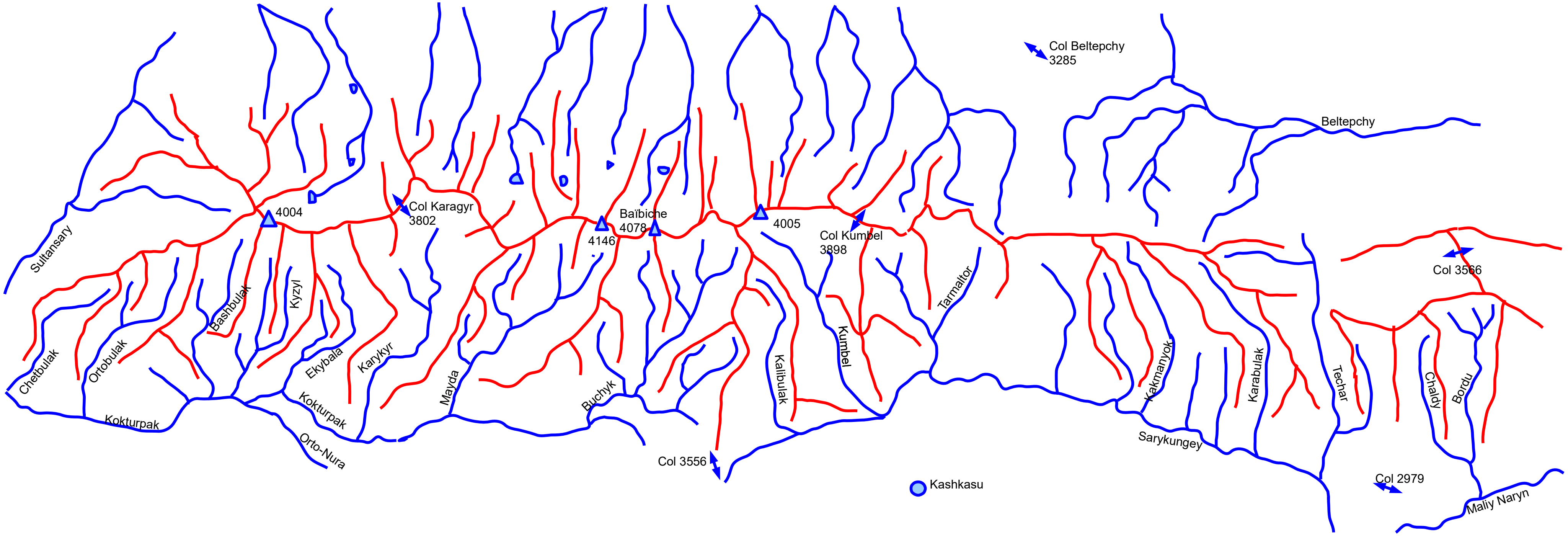
Miscellaneous features

The mountain of Kapka-Tash extends 40 km in length from east to west and 10 km in width. It is located immediately north of the range of Nura, near the city of Naryn. The Kapka-Tash has a wide tabular zone on its main crest around 4000 meters, the peneplain relief, probably due to abrasion of ancient ice caps. It is ideal for alpine hikes to explore open steppes mountainous landscapes. The range is framed by two large valleys, north the wide plain of Sulmansary and south the Kokturpak valley. Each of the two valleys are at 3000 meters altitude and these gentle slopes of the mountains form the territory of the Kyrgyz call the "Sirt" an high-altitude pasture between 3000 and 4000.

Access to the mountain

The most direct access to mountain is from the city of Naryn, taking south of the range of Nura is the trail that goes up the valley of the Maliy Naryn, also bypassing the Kapka-Tash to the east, towards the Djalpakbel pass, between the mountains of Karagoman and Karadjorga (north of Kapka-Tash). The pass of Djalpakbel at 3300 m is a good starting place for a wide hike that combines the mountains of the Kapka-Tash south, Karagoman north and west Karadjorga.

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-93


Col Beltepchy
3285
Beltepchy
Sultansary
4004
Col Karagyr
3802
Baïbiche
4078
4146
4005
Col Kumbel
3898
Col 3566
Tarmaltor
Chetbulak
Ortobulak
Bashbulak
Kyzyl
Ekybala
Karykyr
Kokturpak
Kokturpak
Orto-Nura
Mayda
Buchyk
Col 3556
Kalibulak
Kumbel
Kashkasu
Kakmanyok
Karabulak
Sarykungey
Techar
Chaldy
Bordu
Col 2979
Maliy Naryn

Orographic Scheme of Kapka-Tash range

A.6.12) The Karagoman range

Miscellaneous features

The ranges of Keriu-Kara-Koman and Kara-Koman extend in length over 56 km from east to west and 12 km in width. They are situated immediately south of the range of Terskey Ala-Too in its western part. The western part rises to 4233 m and is part of Keriu-Kara-Goman at 4339 m. The eastern part of the Kara-Koman is more or less an extension of Terskey-Ala-Too in the form of a vast plateau at an altitude of over 4000, with reliefs abraded interspersed by flat areas of ancient ice sheets, a grazing peneplain of "sirt" at high-altitude. It's a gérion where the nights are cold and where it is not uncommon that temporarily snow in summer, but when the presence of the ice itself is lacking.

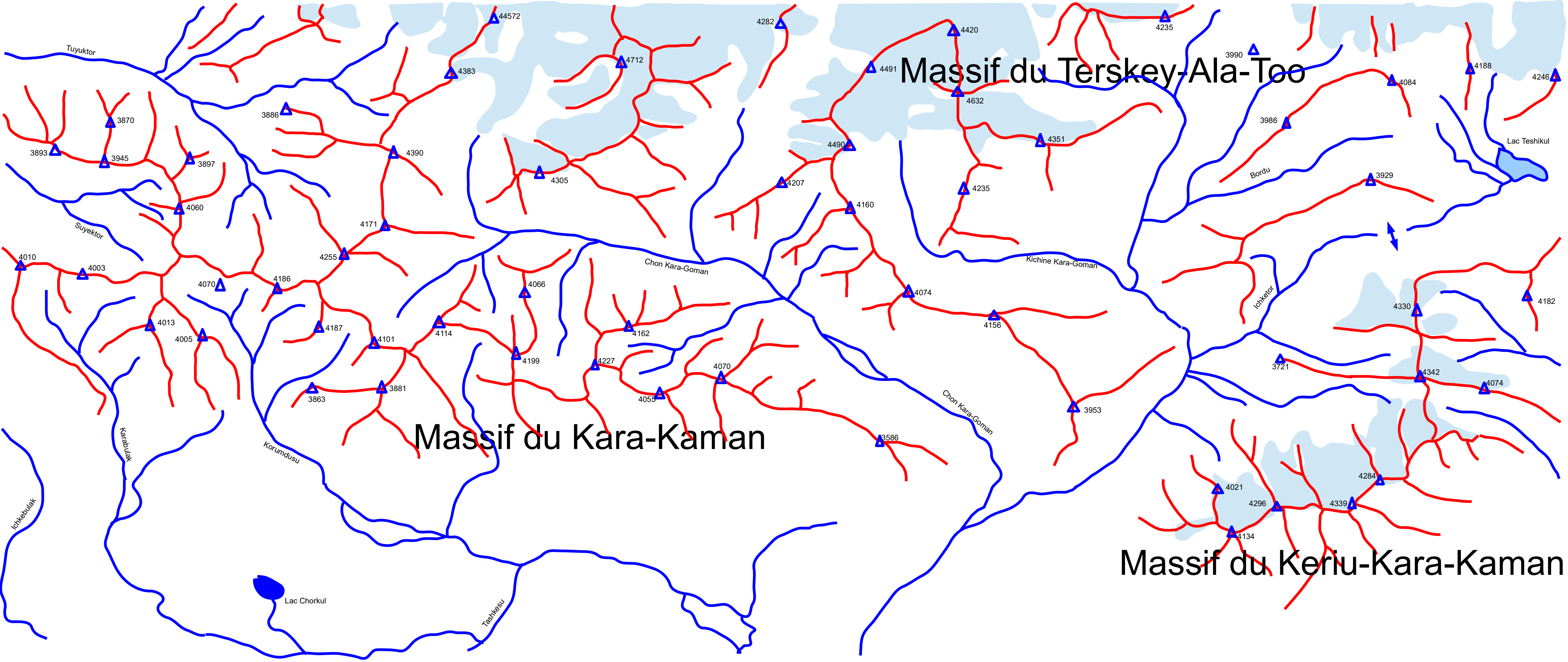
However in the eastern part of the range, significantly cut by the valley of Kara-Koman, one encounters the Keriu Kara-Koman where on North slopes lie real small glaciers facing the white immensity of Terkey Ala-Too north nearby. A small modest Kyrgyz gem but remarkably mounted like a precious jewell and of a few kilometers above 4,000.

Access to the mountain

The most direct access to mountain is from the city of Naryn, taking south of the range of Nura is the trail that goes up the valley of the Maliy Naryn, also bypassing the Kapka-Tash to the east, towards the Djalpakbel pass between the mountains of Kara-Koman and Karadjorga (north of Kapka-Tash). The pass of Djalpakbel to 3300 is a good starting place for a wide trek to the North East towards the valleys of the rivers Kara-Koman.

Before climbing to the Djalpakbel pass, at the junction of Korumdusu and Karakoman valleys, a track can be traced back to the junction of the valleys of Chon-Karakoman and Kychy-Karakoman. From there you can choose the western part up the Chon-Karakoman, or East in the Kychy-Karakoman Valley. The base camps are in a day and a half walk from the main runway of Djalpakbel Pass.

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-82


Massif du Terskey-Ala-Too
Massif du Kara-Kaman
Massif du Keriu-Kara-Kaman
Tuyuktor
Suyektor
Karabulak
Ichkebulak
Korumdusu
Lac Chorkul
Tashkesu
Chon Kara-Goman
Kichine Kara-Goman
Ichketor
Bordu
Lac Teshikul
44572
4383
4712
4282
4420
4491
4632
4235
3990
4188
4246
4084
3986
4351
4490
4207
4160
4235
3929
3870
3893
3945
3897
4060
3886
4390
4305
4171
4255
4010
4003
4070
4186
4066
4074
4156
4330
4182
4013
4005
4187
4101
4114
4199
4162
4227
4070
4059
3863
3881
3586
3953
3721
4342
4074
4021
4296
4284
4339
4134

Orographic scheme of Karogoman range

A.6.13) The Kara-Kyr range

Miscellaneous features

This is another range almost unknown inside Kyrgyzstan, located at the Chinese border immediately east of Torugart Pass, at a maximum altitude of 4425 m. It rises above a vast high altitude desert steppe between 3600-3800 south of the Ak-Say depression and south-east of Lake Chatyr-Kol. Its slopes are very progressive, then one must imagine a low elevation gain over tens of kilometers, following long flat valleys finally reaching 4000 m in their headwaters on the Sino-Kyrgyz border. The range is of North-South orientation, it is characterized by a series of valleys along this main orientation, of which the sources of rivers are adjacent to the Chinese border. Isolated landscape of steppe harsh and arid climate of high altitude, rounded and eroded topography, all valley bottoms are located high above 3800-4000, with an average altitude mountainous between from 4200 to 4300. It is a place for hiking in the perfect isolation of the great outdoors. The highest peak has probably never been climbed, and its altitude is uncertain varying in 4425 and 4497.

There is no information to date on this mountain : wether there is any glaciers and alpine interesting possibilities. What better way to justify a first more serious exploration !

Hydrology

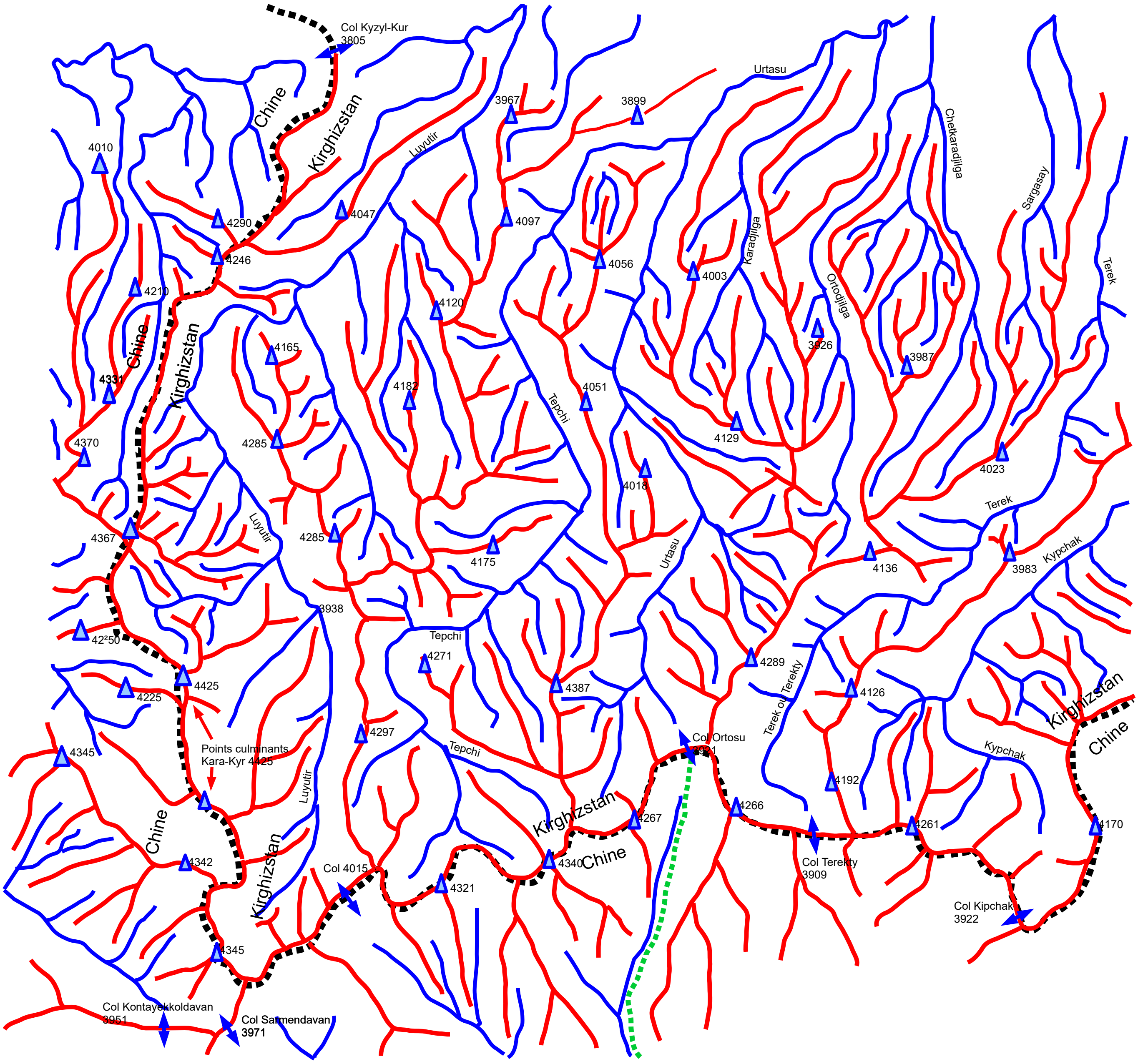
From West to East there are several rivers flow from south to north: the Luyutir River along the Chinese border, the Tepchi, the Urtasu, the Terek and the Kipchak. Between these rivers extends over some secondary watersheds on the range slopes: the Karadjilga, the Ortodjilga and Chetkaradjilga, all tributaries of the Urtasu. Soft reliefs should make it easy to move from one valley to another. Traditional shepherd's paths, once used for the passage to the Chinese side, are located in the valleys of the Urtasu, Terek and Kipchak.

Access to the mountains

The vicinity of the Torugart Pass allows to consider the mountain penetration of less complex than for Kerpe-Too range neighbor to the east. There seems to be a track from the depression of the Ak-Say, leading to the village of Karaultiube on the Terek River. Hence a continuous track along the Ortosu valley to the pass of the same name on the Chinese border. It is likely that Chinese border post is installed to the pass Ortosu (3925). Indeed a road from the southern valley of the Chinese Ortosu. The route to the west by the upper valleys can reach the Luyutir valley and the highest peak of the range at 4425 m altitude.

This region is located in the border area and a special access permit is required there. The isolation of the place needs to seriously inquire beforehand on conditions for access to the territory.

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-128 (North), k43-140 (South and Chinese border); 1/200 000th: k43-34


Col Kyzyl-Kur
3805
Chine
Kirghizstan
Luyutir
3967
3899
Urtasu
Chetkaradjilga
Sargasay
Terek
4010
4290
4047
4097
4246
4056
4003
Karadjilga
Ortodjilga
4210
4120
Chine
Kirghizstan
4165
3926
3987
4331
4182
4051
Tepchi
4370
4285
4129
4018
4023
Terek
Luyutir
4367
4285
4175
Urtasu
4136
3983
Kypchak
3938
42^{2}50
Tepchi
4271
4289
Terek ou Terekty
4425
4225
4387
4126
Kirghizstan
Chine
Col Ortosu
3921
4297
Points culminants
Kara-Kyr 4425
4345
Tepchi
Kypchak
Luyutir
4192
Chine
Kirghizstan
4267
4266
4261
4170
4342
Col 4015
4340
Chine
Col Terekty
3909
Kirghizstan
4321
Col Kipchak
3922
4345
Col Kontayekkoldavan
3951
Col Sarmendavan
3971

Orographic scheme of the Kara-Kyr range

A.6.14) The Karamanyok range

It is a small mountain range located immediately south of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too, about 70km extension. Its orientation is identical to the Kyrgyz Ala-Too, East-West. The "central" position of the massif is briefly on a north-south line from the capital Bishkek. East-west limits would lie in relation to the Kyrgyz Ala-Too passes Kegety and Ala-Archa. Despite this relative proximity to the capital, this range is often associated in the reports with his great brother Kyrgyz Ala-Too. Therefore its own description is relatively poor in the literature. The highest mountain of Karamanyok is the Peak Shnitnikov (4281 m).

Short history of the massif

A more pronounced tourism development in the region began in the second half of the 70s (with the exception of some previous campaigns), and to this day a quarter of the Karamanyok is known, but the available information is too scattered and not systematic amoung alpine international communities. The location of the passes is listed with their respective position not always precisely known. The activity in recent decades is mainly related to the great hiking combined with the passage of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too. Pure mountaineering activity is much anecdotal. The main peaks above 4000 gathered around the Peak Shnitnikov have been probably reached, but the rocky path are no well listed, neither the estimate of quotations. It is even difficult to find documentation on the passes listed around 20-25 in number. The valleys near the Peak Shnitnikov present the greatest interest by combining rocks with some small final glacial slopes, in the image of what we can find for instance around the Adhygene valley in the Kyrgyz Ala-Too, as well as the Sokuluk or Isssyk Ata. But it is far of interest than in Ak-Sai or Alamedin spots in the heart of Kyrgyz Ala-Too.

Climate

As in the Kyrgyz Ala-Too, the climate is continental. Precipitation is highly dependent on altitude and season. In the spring there is frequent fog, rain, and snow. The average amount of precipitation is 80 mm per month. The summer is wet and cool with an average temperature of + 12°C. The last month of summer, August is hot and dry. The month of September is the driest month of the year. In November starts cold. Winter is rather cold, but not as extreme as in south of the Naryn region. As the foothills of Karamanyok is located at a higher elevation than the Kyrgyz Ala-Too, winter is a bit colder with more sustained winds. The coldest month is February. In winter the southern peaks are often exposed to intense sunlight thawing. Global snowfall is relatively low. Rainfall is inequaly distributed and the regime is strongly influenced by the northern presence of a "barrier" of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too. Logically, the climate is slightly drier. But it is not uncommon in summer there is temporary snowfall.

Hydrography, glaciology, rocks

On a river view, the river system is relatively simple. North presents watersheds of rivers Karakol (east and west), and south contains watersheds of rivers Suyek (east and west). The valleys east and west are separated by passes of the same name, Karakol pass (3452 m) to the north and Suyek pass (3512 m) to the south. Both passes are important passages for the summer Kyrgyz pastures (jailoo). South of pass Suyek begins another adjacent range the Djumgal-Too (4078m) at lowest height, rather above 4000 and east of the village of Suusamyr. We may also mention a distinct lateral ridge further south distinct from Djumgal-Too, which also has a similar altitude than Karamanyok, the Oy-Gaing (4273).

The Karamanyok range present a smaller glacier system and less extensive than for the Kyrgyz Ala-Too. The Kyrgyz Ala-Too totals some 607 glaciers with a global area of 530.4 km2 while the Karamanyok (together with the Djumgal-Too and Oy-Gaing), totals 191 glaciers to an extent of 59.4 km2. These are mostly glaciers circus located on the north side and whose terminal glacial tongues amounted mostly to 3400-3600 m. The ridge has a strong asymmetry between north and south sides. The northern slopes of the central part of the massif have substantial glaciers, while the south side is practically free of them.

The rocks of the massif are often highly disintegrated areas, but with some stronger rocky buttresses and walls, concentrated in the valleys around the Pic Shnitnikov. The southern slopes are generally rocky and heavily disintegrated. Thus, there is often a greater difficulty in the descent of the southern slopes of passes. It is then necessary to get good knowledge of footpath in a very tormented relief to find your way: steep slopes, sharp gendarmes, buttresses and rest of moraines. In descriptions of Karamanyok one often talks of a dozen passes (in Russian) on the twenty officially listed. But the information is poorly structured, and are not at all accurate including the location (except 4, where the GPS coordinates are reported). While most known passes not exceed the rating cotation of 2B (or PD +), it says a lot about the little alpine exploration taking place in this small range.

Pastoral life

On the north side of the Karamanyok, there are many summer pastures with their "village of yurts". On the axis of the Kochkor-Suusamyr track settle many herder families for the summer. Traffic in track is about 1-5 cars per day, including oftem trucks coming to collect the milk (cow or mare). Traffic is more important on the weekend. On summer pastures, the Karamanyok offers picturesque meadows on background peaks crowned with eternal snow. It is also a more open landscape that Kyrgyz Ala-Too that open to the east on the small depression of Suusamyr.

Local people, shepherds and their families will always be curious to see some tourists. Your visit will not long remain unknown for miles around. Many people speak Russian, but not all, also some Turkish words (some similarities with Kyrgyz) carefully placed will also help. Unfortunately english is not really appropriate. For settlements in the breeding areas, it is best to choose a higher place in the mountains approching ice tongues where water is deemed less polluted by animal activity, or a resurgent water source.

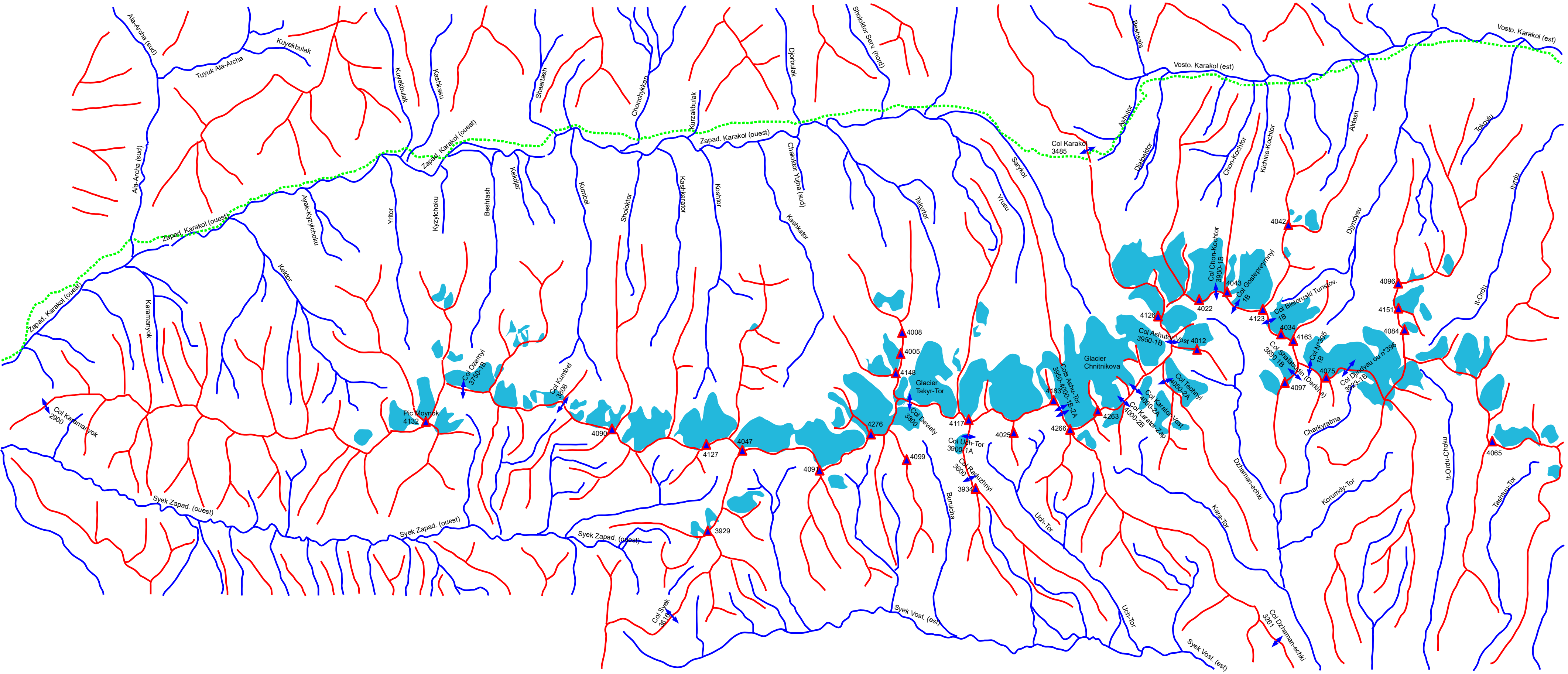
Access to the range

Before discussing access to Karamanyok, remember that the peaks of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too is located just across a short distance from Bishkek and access is quite convenient. The valleys of the main rivers are well provided with public transport service from Bishkek to the entrance of the valleys. So they are easily accessible and in particular Kegety valley that has a track road leading to Kegety pass (4-wheels drive), which gives access to the East Karakol river valley located in front of the Karamanyok range.

The West-East Karakol valleys are connected by a road track reaching the Karakol pass. This road used to connect the villages of Kochkor and Suusamyr, which in turn are accessibles from Bishkek. The Suyek West and East valleys are also connected by the Suyek pass where lies equally a road track connecting Susamyr and Kochkor, but the track is much less used than the Karakol Pass Trail.

The pass of Karakol Kyrgyz mobile telecommunications network is active.

Cartography. Maps 1/50 000th: k43-066-1 and k43-066-2; 1/100 000th: k43-066; 1/200 000th: k43-15.


Ala-Archa (sud)
Kuyekbulak
Tuyuk Ala-Archa
Kuyekbulak
Kashkasu
Shaartash
Chonchykkan
Kurzakbulak
Djorbulak
Sholoktor Serv. (nord)
Beshsala
Vosto. Karakol (est)
Vosto. Karakol (est)
Zapad. Karakol (ouest)
Zapad. Karakol (ouest)
Zapad. Karakol (ouest)
Zapad. Karakol (ouest)
Ala-Archa (sud)
Ayak-Kyzylchoku
Yritor
Kyzylchoku
Beshtash
Kekdjar
Kumbel
Sholoktor
Kashkarator
Koshtor
Chaloktor Yujna (sud)
Kashkator
Takyrtor
Yrusu
Sarykol
Col Karakol
3485
Ashutor
Djalpaktor
Chon-Kochtor
Kichine-Kochtor
Aktash
Tokoylu
Ityrdu
Djyndysu
It-Ordu
Kektor
Karamanyok
Col Karamanyok
2900
Col Ozernyi
3750-1B
Col Kumbel
3806
Pic Moynok
4132
4090
4127
4047
4091
4276
4008
4005
4148
Glacier
Takyr-Tor
Col Deviaty
3800
4099
4117
Col Uch-Tor
3900-1A
Col Raduzhnyi
3600
3934
4025
4183
Cols Ashu-Tor
3950-4000-1B-2A
4266
4263
Glacier
Chnitnikova
Col Karator-Zap
4000-2B
Col Karator-Vost
4000-2A
Col Technyi
4050-2A
Col Ashutor-Vost
3950-1B
4012
4126
4022
Col Chon-Kochtor
3900-1B
4043
Col Gostepreymnyi
1B
4042
4123
Col Bieloruski Turistov.
1B
4034
4163
Col Shalabudin (Derkina)
3890 1B
Col N°395
1B
4097
4075
Col Djindysu ou n°396
3923-1B
4096
4151
4084
4065
Charkyratma
Korumdy-Tor
It-Ordu-Choku
Tashtuu-Tor
Dzhaman-echki
Kara-Tor
Uch-Tor
Uch-Tor
Burulcha
Col Dzhaman-echki
3261
Syek Vost. (est)
Syek Vost. (est)
Syek Zapad. (ouest)
Syek Zapad. (ouest)
Syek Zapad. (ouest)
3929
Col Syek
3616

Orographic scheme of the Karamanyok range

A.6.15) The Kara-Too range

Miscellaneous features

The mountain of Kara-Too is a small range spread over 26 km from east to west and 6 km wide. Its highest peak rises to 4067 m altitude. It is located just southwest of the city of Naryn in an axis following the Karacha Mountains and the eastern part of Baïbiche-Too. It is bordered to the south by the depression of the At-Bashi south and its gorges in the East. To the north the mountains overlooking the vast valley of Naryn.

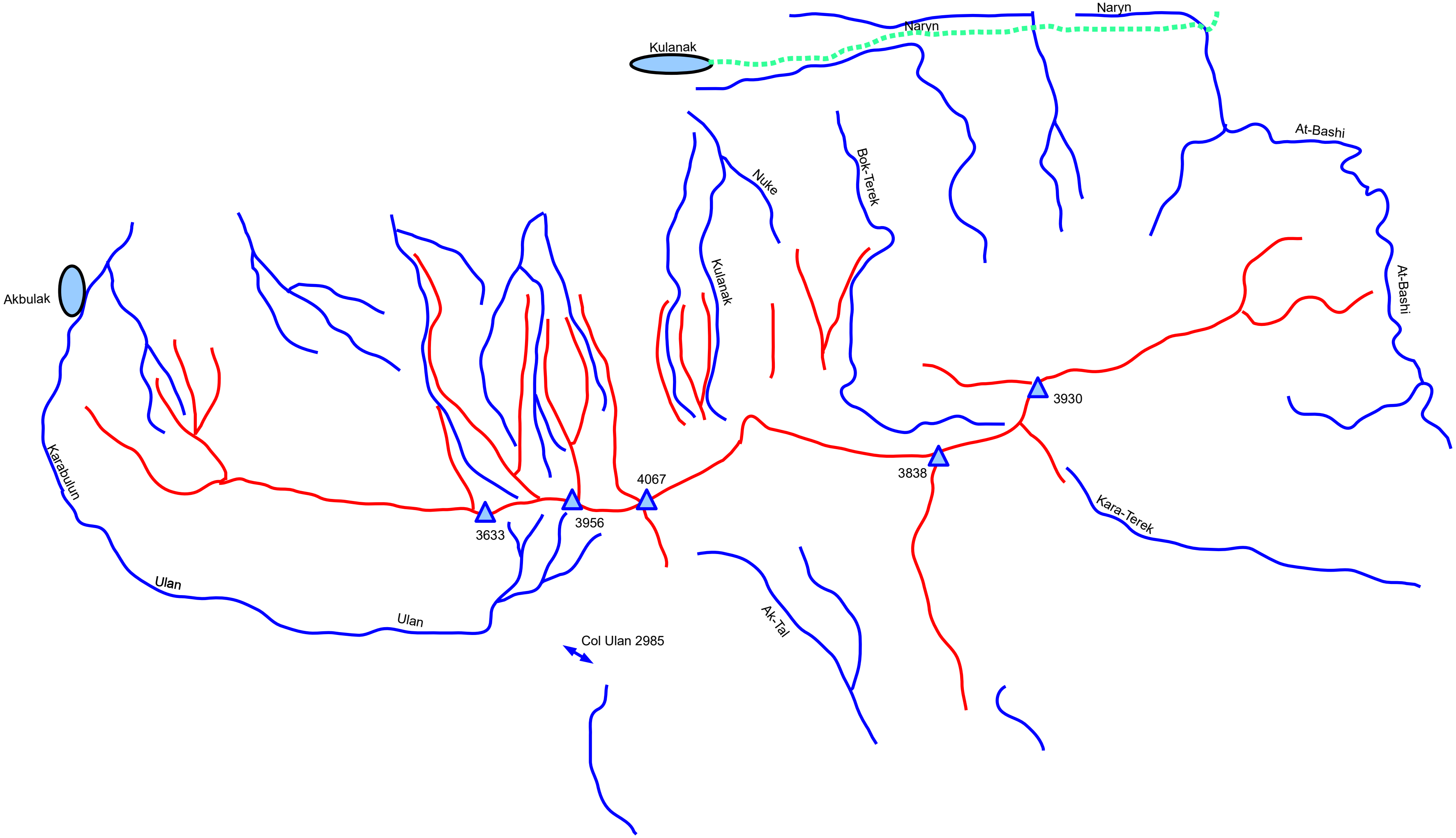
Its extreme continental climate above the altitude steppes in fact made it a place of relative drought. So in the mountain water is a scarce commodity.

The main ridge have a slightly abrasive tabular shape in its eastern part, which is suitable for hiking. The range has no glacier and has only one peak above 4000. The western part presents a more rugged terrain formation with deep ravine and which seems to rise well above the surrounding plains. The map does not mention any trail leading to the main ridge of Kara-Too therefore it asks some preliminary exploration and recognition.

Access to the mountain

Access to mountain is easy because in the wide valleys in the North and South are plenty of roads and tracks. The villages of Dostuk, Kulanak make it easy to reach the northern slope. The track leading to the village of Akbulak and the rise of Ulan valley towards the Ulan pass, can reach the south side.

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-103 (West), k43-104 (East), k43-92 (North)


Naryn
Naryn
Kulanak
At-Bashi
Nuke
Bok-Terek
Kulanak
At-Bashi
Akbulak
3930
4067
3838
Karabulun
3633
3956
Kara-Terek
Ulan
Ulan
Ak-Tal
Col Ulan 2985

Orographic scheme of Kara-Too range

A.6.16) The Kekkirim-Too range

Miscellaneous features

The Kekkirim-Too range culminates at 4351 meters altitude, east-west extension of 60 km and the largest north-south width of 38 km. The mountain is located to the southeast of the valley of the vast reservoir of Toktogul, North of Ferghana and west of the Moldo-Too. Naryn river flows to the east into a deep gorge (1200 m) literally edged the Tien-Shan in two distincts parts the Moldo-Too and Kekkirim-Too. From either side of it is often found on the peaks beyond 3500 meters. One can easily imagine how great must be the landscape, as a kind of Kyrgyz Colorado.

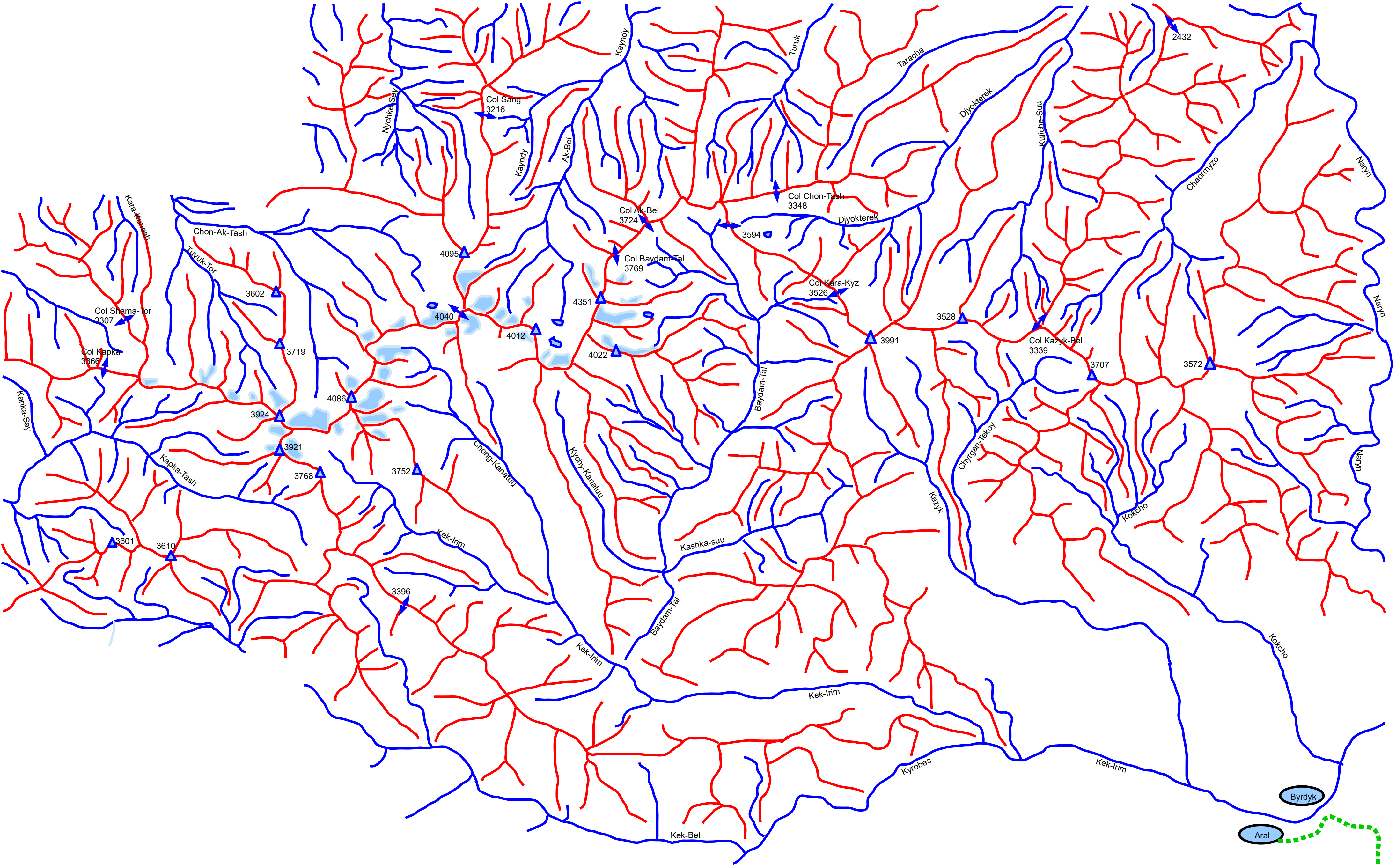
The Kekkirim-Too as picked up on itself, tip above large valleys in the North and the South its own rocky peaks, decorated here and there with small glaciers all housed in the hollow rock walls and gullies in North faces well protected of the sun. The range is crossed by several trails reported on the map that achieve the heart of the mountain and can be used to establish base camps at the foot of the rocky difficulties.

Nothing was really said about Kekkirim-Too, if that is what one can guess by looking at the map and dreaming of future alpine explorations. Because this is a potentially technical rocky terrain that awaits us there.

Access to the mountain

Two accesses are possible to reach the range Kekkirim-Too: from the south via the Ferghana and the pass of Kaldamo, going down to the village of Kazarman, then take the trail from the village of Kekkirim or Aral/Byrdyk footed on the southern slopes. A path leads towards the main ridge to the Kara-Kyz pass, crossing a backdrop of steep canyons. It can also be shifted to a downward path towards Baydam-Tal river, then up to the Baydam-Tal Pass at the foot of the highest peak 4351 of Kekkirim-Too. From the north, reach Toktogul and join Sargata/Kyzyl-Uraan/Nichke, and other villages at the foot of the northern slopes.

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-76 (North Slope), k43-87 (far west), k43-88 (Kekkirim-Too and Naryn gorges)


Kayndy
Turuk
Taracha
2432
Col Sang
3216
Nychke-Say
Djyokterek
Kuliche-Suu
Kayndy
Ak-Bel
Naryn
Chaormyzo
Col Chon-Tash
3348
Kara-Kunash
Col Ak-Bel
3724
Djyokterek
3594
Chon-Ak-Tash
Tuyuk-Tor
4095
Col Baydam-Tal
3769
Col Kara-Kyz
3526
3602
4351
Col Shama-Tor
3307
4040
Naryn
3528
4012
3991
Col Kazyk-Bel
3339
3719
4022
Col Kapka
3366
3707
3572
Kanka-Say
4086
Baydam-Tal
3924
3921
Chyrgan-Tekoy
Naryn
Kapka-Tash
Chong-Kanatuu
3752
3768
Kychy-Kanatuu
Kazyk
Kokcho
Kek-Irim
Kashka-suu
3601
3610
3396
Baydam-Tal
Kokcho
Kek-Irim
Kek-Irim
Kyrobes
Kek-Irim
Byrdyk
Kek-Bel
Aral

Orographic scheme of Kekkirim-Too range

A.6.17) The Kerpe-Too mountains

Miscellaneous features

Located the Kerpe-Too range is not an easy task, because its place name is not on any topographic map of the Soviet era, whatever its scale. The starting point of the bibliographic research is a mention on the English Wikipedia listing of the Kyrgyz mountain ranges. Actually this list coming from two encyclopedias on Kyrgyzstan appeared one in the late 1970s in Russian, and the other year 1991 in Kyrgyz, at the first time of independence. It appears there a perfectly enigmatic name "Kerpe-Too" culminating at 4552 m. In the Kyrgyz encyclopedia article, the word Kerpe-Too still gives some guidance: located in the area of the Ak-Sai depression, south. There is also a permanent indication on Soviet maps for a triangulation point altitude 4552 (sometimes 4558), which is taking the exact altitude variations in published list of Kyrgyz mountainous ranges. A good final confirmation is obtained by removal top altitudes of all other ranges on maps.

Thus in all likelihood, the Kerpe-Too is located just south of the Sary-Beless range on an oblique axis Northeast-Southwest, which touches the border with China to the height of the pass Kodjent (3962 m). It is also placed on the borders of the endless Kokshaal-Too. There it forms an orographic node from which the Kerpe-Too starts northeast and further west a mountain range of Tien-Shan, the Meydantag, located entirely in Chinese Turkestan (Xinjiang). The Meydantag is one the first chain of the Tien-Shan along the great depression of the Taklamakan desert.

Unless the existence of this purely geographical reference, there is to date no description of this mountain. Examination of maps gives little clue to the Ice implantation. One can notice a certain contradiction between the presence of many rivers in this region, including those supplying the famous lake Kelsu (a jewel in the region), and the lack of glacier map reporting. But this is a region known for its relative drought and the severity of its winter climate. Also the presence of rivers can only be an indication of a significant presence in glacial north face. So do not really make a big trust on topographic maps to this point.

In defense of Soviet surveyors is a particularly difficult access region, a veritable no man's land, perhaps even away from traditional local Kyrgyz routes between China and Kyrgyzstan. However the maps mention paths crossing on the border ridge, leading to the main valley of the range, the river Kurumduk and the Sino-Kyrgyz border. Thus notes the trails to Karabel pass (4023) south of the range Sary-Beless, Echigart pass (3933) (South Kokkiya), the trail upstream Lake Kelsu, up the Kurumduk valley, which separates to the passes Kurumduk (3795) and Kodjent (3962) both on the Chinese border, and finally that of the Karabel pass (4088) to the east on the Kokshaal-Too. The trail to the Orkashkakashu pass (spelling uncertain and probable error on topographic transcription) allows the crossing of the range in the middle, connecting the valleys of the Orto-Kashkasu and Kurumduk.

For a more precise description of the general conditions of the mountain, we refer to the chapter on the ranges Kokkiya and Sary-Beless, since the lack of more information on the territory of the end of the world.

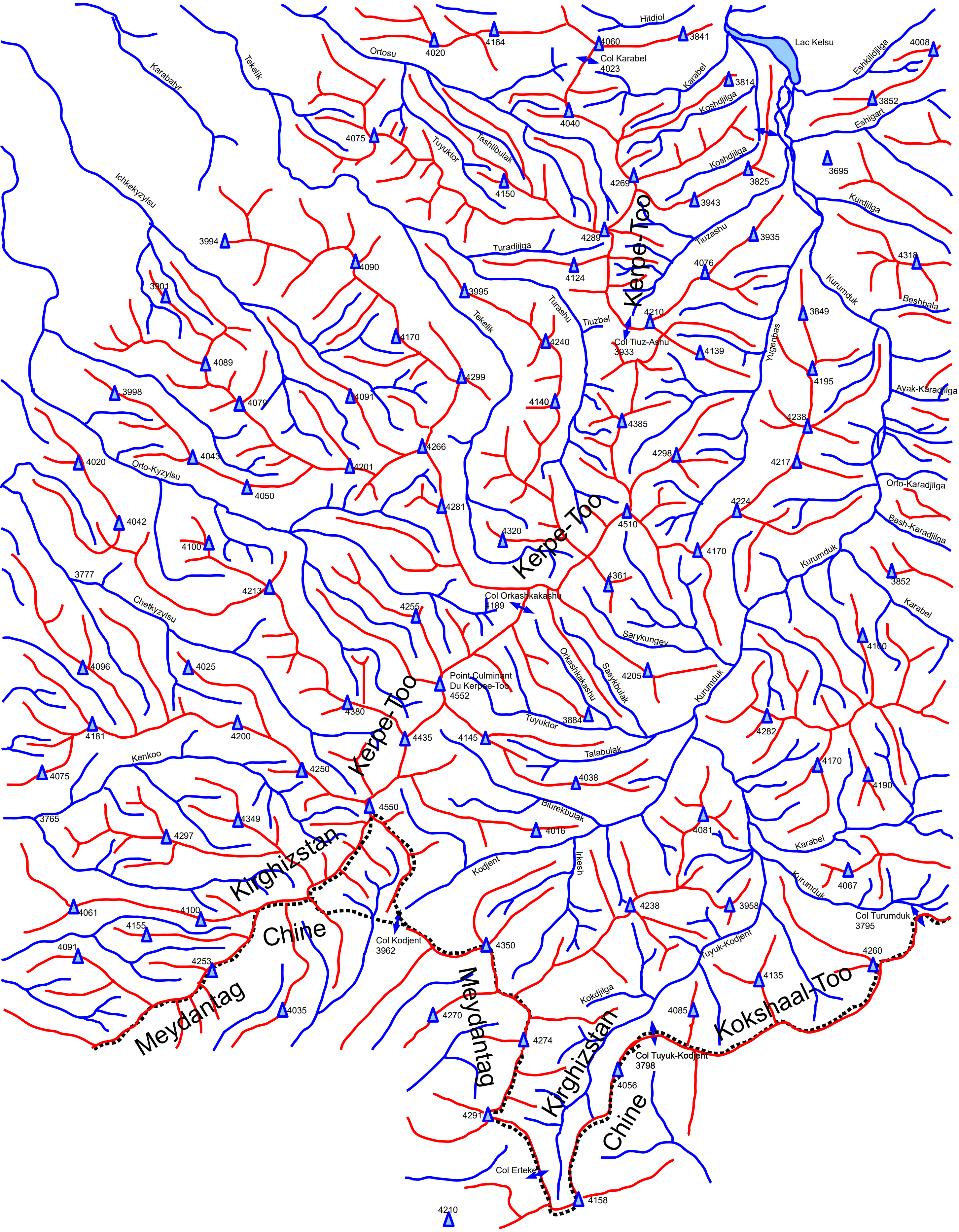
About mountaineering, this is a totally virgin territory of any ascent, in all likelihood. Isolation and the resulting exploration mission, there must be of great interest in themselves to the curiosity of climbers and hikers. But do not expect to much in this area of great technical challenge because of very hilly valley bottoms that are often close to 3800-4000 to an average height of the peaks in 4300. It is expected there rather eroded rock formations and a sort of peneplain relief, more conducive to the Alpine hiking. For much effort in organizing an expedition to the Sary-Beless and Kokkiya (Kell-Too and Kokshaal-Too Sino-Kyrgyz border, 4800-4960), one can make extensive exploration further south on Kerpe-Too, after any successful ascents of the last granite bastions further north !

Access to the mountain

This is a difficult issue to resolve, if indeed access to the Sary-Beless range is an adventure in itself (see chapter Kokkiya and Sary-Beless), that of Kerpe-Too further south is more enigmatic. That is if the old paths mentioned on the maps are always used for summer pasture, one can expect a horse transport by local sheperds (the presence of former collective farm on maps at the confluence of Beshbala). After all to penetrate 70-80 km further south in this no man's land is an adventure in itself.

This region is located in the border area and a special access permit is required there. The isolation of the place needs to seriously inquire beforehand on overall conditions for access to the territory.

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-129; 1/200 000th: k43-35.


Hitdjol
4164
4020
Ortosu
4060
3841
Lac Kelsu
Eshkildjilga
4008
Col Karabel
4023
Karabatyr
Tekelik
Karabel
3814
3852
Eshigart
Koshdjilga
4040
4075
Tuyuktor
Tashtibulak
Koshdjilga
3825
3695
4269
4150
3943
Kurdjilga
Ichkekyzylsu
4289
Kerpe-Too
Tiuzashu
3935
3994
Turadjilga
4124
4076
4318
4090
3901
3995
Kurumduk
Beshbala
Tekelik
Turashu
Tiuzbel
4210
Col Tiuz-Ashu
3933
3849
4170
4240
4139
Yugenbas
4089
4299
4195
3998
4079
4091
4140
Ayak-Karadjilga
4385
4238
4043
4266
4298
4020
Orto-Kyzylsu
4201
4217
4050
Orto-Karadjilga
4281
4224
4042
4320
Kerpe-Too
4510
Bash-Karadjilga
4100
4170
Kurumduk
3777
4213
4361
3852
Col Orkashkakashu
4189
4255
Chetkyzylsu
Karabel
Sarykungey
4100
4096
4025
Orkashkakashu
Sasykbulak
4205
Point Culminant
Du Kerpe-Too
4552
Kurumduk
4380
Kerpe-Too
3884
Tuyuktor
4282
4181
4200
4435
4145
Talabulak
Kenkoo
4075
4250
4038
4170
4190
4550
Biurekbulak
3765
4349
4297
4016
4081
Kirghizstan
Karabel
Irkesh
Kodjent
4067
Kurumduk
4061
4100
4238
3958
Col Turumduk
3795
4155
Chine
Col Kodjent
3962
4350
Tuyuk-Kodjent
4260
4091
4253
4135
Kokshaal-Too
Meydantag
4035
Kokdjilga
4085
4270
Meydantag
4274
Kirghizstan
Col Tuyuk-Kodjent
3798
4056
4291
Chine
Col Erteke
4158
4210

Orographic Scheme of Kerpe-Too Mountains

A.6.18) The ranges of Kyzart and Kara-Katta

Miscellaneous features

Kyzart and Kara-Katta mountains form an east-west alignment that extends over fifty kilometers and 16 km to the greatest width. The highest peak rises to Kyzart at 4400 m altitude. These two range, one to the east is the highest, are north of the inner Tien-Shan. They are both relatively close to the town of Kochkor, north-east, halfway to Lake Song-Kül. The pass of Kyzart provides a convenient entry point of the range on the road to Kochkor-Ribache, and across the pass of Chaar-Archa (3061 m). The range Kyzart is located southeast of the pass with the same name.

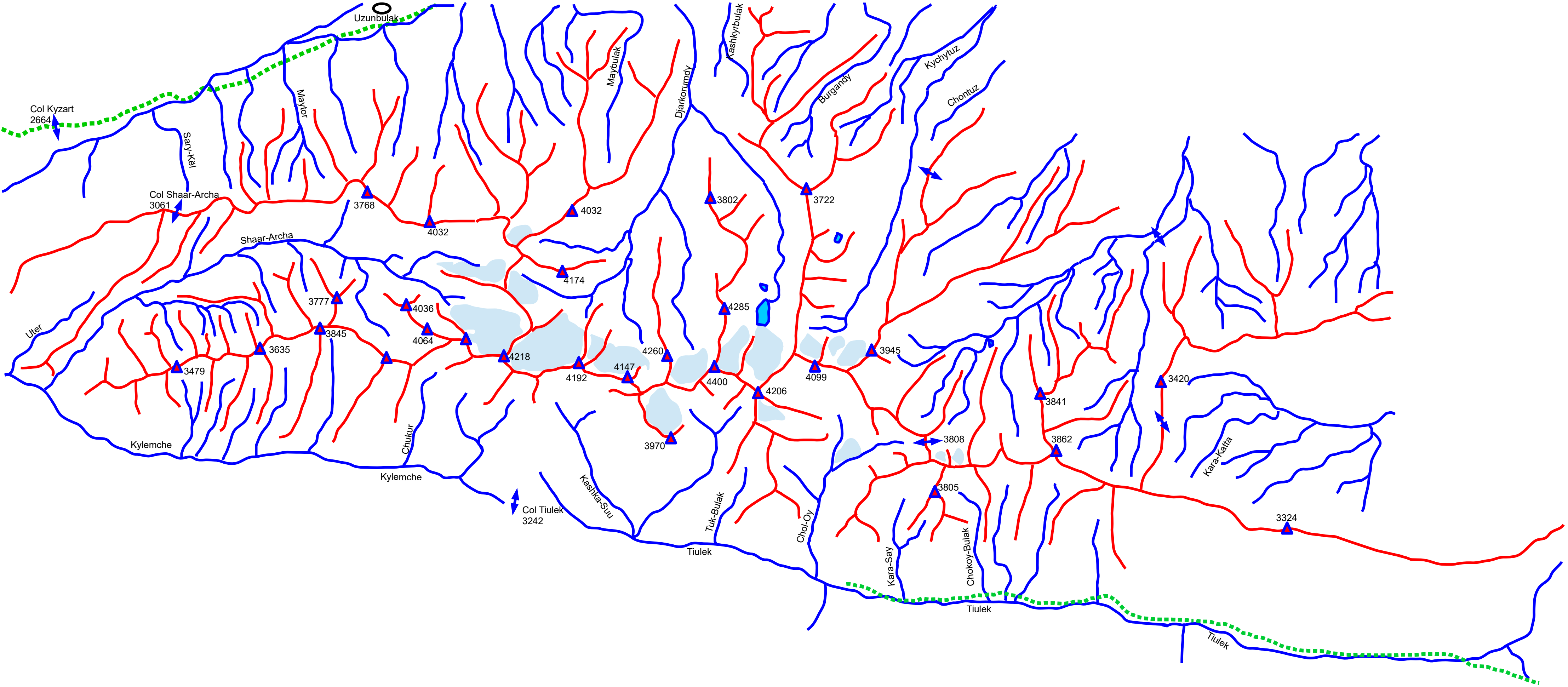
The Kyzart mountain is the highest part of the two adjacent ranges, it has glaciers north face, developing between 3800 and 4400. The rather long valleys (7-8 km) have a hollow profile, which is housed in upstream with few cirque glaciers, leaving free the upper part in rock faces or scree slopes of detritus. Glaciers are generally short (1-2km) and number-limited (no more than 15). It is this western area of the range that seems to present a terrain more suitable for mountaineering.

On the eastern part (the range Kara-Katta, maximum 3862) of lower height, it is dedicated to hiking in the Jaïloos. The relief is softer, consisting of myriads of small valleys on the northern and southern slopes.

Access to the mountain

The most direct access to these range is done from the road of Kyzart pass, on the road to Kochkor and the trail leading to the Chaar-Archa (3061 m) pass. Uzunbulak village on the road to Kochkor is also a starting point for the western area of Kyzart. The rise of Djyrkorumdy Valley from the village of Akchny (before Uzunbulak) achieves to the heart of the range in a day and a half walk, before establishing a base camp. The slopes of the mountains can be reached by the Kochkor-Naryn road around the east and then by the tracks following the bed of the river Tiulek to Tiulek pass. We can then combine long walks on the northern margin of Lake Song-Kul on the ridges of Baydulu, the Ak-Tash and Song-Kul.

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-67, k43-68 (East), k43-92 (North); 1/200 000th: k43-16 (North), k43-12 (Kara-Katta and Lake Song-Kül).


Uzunbulak
Col Kyzart
2664
Maytor
Sary-Kël
Col Shaar-Archa
3061
3768
4032
Maybulak
4032
Djarkorumdy
Kashkyrbulak
Burgandy
Kychytuz
Chontuz
3802
3722
Shaar-Archa
4174
3777
4036
4285
Uter
3845
4064
3635
4218
4260
3945
3479
4192
4147
4099
4400
4206
3420
3841
3808
3862
3970
Kylemche
Chukur
Kylemche
Kashka-Suu
Col Tiulek
3242
Tuk-Bulak
Chol-Oy
3805
Kara-Katta
3324
Tiulek
Kara-Say
Chokoy-Bulak
Tiulek
Tiulek

Orographic scheme of Kyzart and Kara-Katta ranges

A.6.19) The mountains of Sary-Beless, Kell-Too and Kökkyia

Short history of the ranges

Apparently it is only very recently that climbers and hikers groups pay attention in these two small mountain ranges away from major contemporary challenges. Maybe Kyrgyzstan still offers this shared dream to our souls explorers in search of the "white spot" on a map of a lost world, a strange land that our steps will draw soon. Long the extreme south of the Naryn region on the border with China has remained elusive to the traveler during the Soviet era because of the Sino-Soviet relations rather delicate. Also this part almost to the borders of Kokshaal-Too, one of the longest chains and the highest in the Tien-Shan, is not as high as eastward. It is itself further west of that known part named "Western Kokshaal-Too". It fits in rather indistinct zone "falls" slowly towards the Torugart Pass, road crossing point between Kyrgyzstan and China. But look more closely, on the old-faithfull soviet map, this area presents comparable altitudes to nearby mountains of the At-Bashi or even Janyjer opposite Kokshaal-Too, and a glacial system that worth deserve a visit.

In terms of mountaineering activities, the area was still "not found" as in the old Soviet passes compilation that in contemporary bases on the Internet until 2001. Year in which was organized a first British expedition (led by D.Gerrard) during which seven “easy” peaks around 4200-4500 (F-B) were reached. The following year the same, with the help of ITMC, D.Gerrard reiterates support in a more advanced penetration on the “massif” Kekkya to more ridges border with China, with 6 new climbs peaks around 4400-4700 (PD-AD). Both items can be easily found in the archives of the "American Alpine Journal". Unfortunately they do not give precise location of peaks or toponymic situations of rivers, and does not seem to relate to altitudes carried back on Soviet maps.

Further exploration stories are also published in the years 2004-2006 by a group of hikers of Moscow as more modest and informal expeditions, but equally deserving, whose goal was the identification of the passages and difficulties. The area is not yet free from human activities as they remain a prime grazing area, harsh but fertile for the summer season. Witness the livelihoods of ancient structures of “kolkoz” along the steppe valleys. These small shipments combined together hiking, kayaking and climbing to improve the exploration of places beyond Lake Kelsu.

So far it seems to notice that the highest peaks of the two mountains have not yet been climbed, as well as those of the actual border line Kokshaal-Too. So literally as well as figuratively, a “no line” field of snow still wait for your next step to adventure.

Location

The mountains of Kekkya and Sary-Beles is located opposite the massif At-Bashi near the Chinese border. To put these two mountainous formations in mind, back on the long line of At-Bashi (southwest orientation, northeast), they lies south the wide depression of the Ak-Say River.

The Ak-Say is a tough mountain valley. In the south-western part, at an altitude of 3530 m, in a huge mountain tray is the country's Chatyr-Kol and the Torugart pass. The mountains of Kekkya and Sary-Beles are well on the same latitudinal line starting from the Chatyr-Kol to the far east. The latter lake although further from our mountains, probably forms the fourth largest lake in Kyrgyzstan after the Issyk-Kul, the Song-Kul and Toktogul reservoir. As such the Chatyr Kol presents an interesting biodiversity which will be discussed, and worth a visit because it is located on one of the access routes to the Kekkya.

North-east there is the Western Kokshaal-Too bathed by the river Miudiuryum. All watersheds of the large depression leads to Kokshaal River just literally cut the Tien-Shan border to flow into China. Among the tributaries of Kokshaal include the Miudiuryum east which comes from the longest glaciers of western Kokshaal-Too. Just before the deep gorges of Kokshaal just throw the tributary, the Kekkya, which gives its name to this border range. In the eastern part of the Ak-Say, in the sector of the village Kagaliachap is the set of the “Sirt”, long flat elevations, high altitude greatly denuded steppes. These are reliefs of peneplains result of the work of ancient glaciers, erosion from wind and water. The river valleys are flat and shallow and broad alluvial depressions alternate with smooth hills and low heights. Old permafrost is equally here too, the former glaciation residue, it is widespread at an altitude of over 3400 meters.

Access of Kekkya and Sary-Beles is "ease" in part by the road along the southern slopes of the At-Bashi and reaches the village of Chatyr-Tash, beyond to the south-east is the area vast steppe pastures foothills dotted of the tracks used by farmers, including the ancestral access to the various passes of the region, mainly south of the massif: passes Uruashtash, Sumsary and Chon-Uru (Sino-Kyrgyz border). The old farming “kolkoz” structures remains in this area devoted to pasture (on the map "Kultur Center”). This region is still often referred to locally as the generic name "Sirt" (high altitude grazing in the intermediate region between TerskeyAla-Too and Western Kokshaal-Too).

Overview of ranges

Chain Kekkya is a spur to the west edge of Kokshaal-Too. The average height of the peak is 4500 m. The highest point of the ridge of Kekkya is 4848 m, while the immediately adjacent part where it starts from the Kokshaal has peaks over 4900 m. The ridge is bounded on the south and west by the Aksayuru River and to the north by Kokshaal River and its tributary the Kekkya. From the depression of Ak-Say, southbound, appear powerful rock walls that extend 20 kilometers from east to west (from the Kokshaal Too). The southern foothills of the chain are not more extensive than 2 km, steep and regular. While the northern foothills, unlike the south, form strongly disrupted relief. Their length is about 12 km. The relief is characterized by relatively flat valleys on the entire chain, which does not exclude net upheavals forming sharp peaks edge. Flat watersheds reach an average height of 4300m, and some peaks rise around 4900m. Glaciation, throughout the region, is only present on the north side of the massif. In the area of the peaks at an altitude of about 4300m, we encounter the first snow in the form of snowfields and "flat" summit glaciers. They occupy most of the time the upper parts of the valleys: The Kuneksaldy (with 12 glaciers), the Karator (19 glaciers), the Aksayuru (6 glaciers). Thus 73% of the ice surfaces are flat tops. It should be noted that most of the glaciers of the summits of the ridge are often covered with snow. The flat tops, which are located at 4400m altitude have a particular effect on the formation of snowfields and glaciers. First, they are not favorable to the accumulation of snow in the winter, carried away by the winds. This phenomenon is prevalent in almost all corners of this kind in the Tien Shan and Pamir Alay. Snowfall then accumulate mainly on some slopes in narrow gorges forming fields of snow and dense glaciers. The height of the firn line is 4000-4200, depending on the exposure. The powdery buildup can form large areas of snow drifts, significant obstacles in the progression and exploration of the massif. The glacier tongues are located at an altitude of 3900 m.

The main Kekkya valleys is those of the Kekkya River to the west, then in order to east, its tributaries the Aksayuru, the Karator and Kuneksaldy rivers tributaries of Kokshaal and also the short Shabeto River along the border before flowing into the Kokshaal a few kilometers upstream of the chinese border. The highlight of the Western Kokshaal-Too from where the Kekkya is located 4960 m altitude. Many peaks on the border ridge exceed 4800, and on the lateral spurs forming Kekkya itself, the edges are located between 4500 m and 4800 m.

Inter-mountain valleys of Kekkya are deep enough, for example the height of the Karator valley in the central part of the river is 3100m. The differences in height to the passes can thus reach more than 1 km. There are not many easy-access passes, although some either category 1A, 1B in the west and north of the massif. Basically passes are rocky, ice or crumbled rocks, depending on the degree of exposure to the elements. For more technical routes, the massif is equipped with a good ice system with many steep walls can offer in some seasons (rather autumn), clean ice routes to meet all the contemporary intrepid mountaineers. But the dominance of the massif is rather rocky.

On the main ridge, according to the estimates of some climbers went there, passes not seem to be listed within 2a (PD/PD +). In the western part of the ridge, flatter in this regard, there actually has a side pass 2a. It should be noted again that the region is very rocky. The rocky outcrops are particularly jagged and have a wide variety of terrain (walls, steps, ledges). The immediate path of passes is rocky, often on a height ranging from 50 m to 300 m. For mountaineers and climbers, this mountain is therefore of great and diversified interest. The only and biggest drawback is its distance from civilization, however, although less than the massive inaccessible of the Borkoldoy or even Kokshaal Western-Too.

The chain of Sary-Beles form a spur of the chain Kekkya deployed to the west. It consists of two parts - West and East (also called the Keltan mountain). Between the two parties, is the deep gorge of the river Kelsu, forming a canyon and a remarkable water retention, lake Kelsu. The western part extends a little to the southeast in narrow valleys but multiple spurs goes northwest of whose length is on average 12 km. The average height of the peak is 4000m. Its highest point is the pic "4726" on the map. The basins are quite a few flatlands and high trays are often combined with steep slopes. The latter form insurmountable obstacles. The south side of the range is also extremely steep and rocky. A characteristic feature of most Sary-Beles valleys is the presence of a sharp transition between pre-grassy slopes of valleys and steep cliffs. Gentle valleys leading to the terminal mountainous cirque and passes are often rocky steps, which may require the use of climbing equipment to achieve this.

On the northwest slope in the Kuldzhabashi River Valley coming from the largest glacier on the west ridge of Sary-Beles. This glacier forms a typical circus consists of two branches, merging in the ablation zone. The right branch is two times larger than the left. The length of the right branch is 2.8km and its surface is 6,0km2. On the north side of the ridge of Sary-Beles we count 11 glaciers, three glaciers belong to Kelsu basin, 6 glaciers in the Kuldzhabashi basin and 2 glaciers to Tekelik basin. The total area of glaciers of the slope reaches 22km2.

The eastern part of the ridge of Sary-Beles, called Mountain Keltan is clearly isolated. It extends over 7 km from east to west with pronounced peaks. The highlight of the top of the ridge is the point "4613 m". The northern foothills have a length of up to 5 km. Glaciers are located north slope and belong to the basin of the river Kelsu. The south side of the main ridge breaks into a powerful rock wall. The southern exposure is unfavorable to the development of glaciers, despite the high altitude. The west of the main ridge directly reconnects by south ridges to Kokshaal-Too.

The passes of the Sary-Beles chain are of greater than or equal difficulty 2. An around trekking route of the chain challenge in cotation around 1. If you want to explore more fully the massive Sary-Beles in hiking it will be a good idea to bring a small boat to cross the river and the lake Kelsu, instead of going further upstream from Lake Kelsu on the Kurumduk river to find a ford. The shores of the lake are mostly impassable by foot.

Geology

Rocks of these two ranges are mostly represented by marble and limestone, and to a lesser extent basalt and granite. On the slopes and riverbanks we often encounter eroded rocks forming strange shapes, stack which is called "Kekurs" consequence of the erosion of water and some big monoliths placed in the bottom valleys. The erosion of torrents formed alluvial terraces ending cliffs several meters high that is often encountered in Kyrgyzstan. The kekurs have a height of 10 m and some blocks reaches 3-5 m. The valley bottoms are flat or slightly wavy. The only major obstacles when moving are the many ravines and cliffs of river terraces and the great extension of the rocky riverbeds. When secondary valleys does not present a flat bottom, they look like canyons and gorges with steep and narrow rock walls, covered with stones carried down by water. Sometimes landslides have completely occupied the bed and the shift in these valleys is very difficult and sometimes impossible. The mountain soils are almost universally dominated by rock and scree. It's just that in large mountain valleys can be found the silt of sïrts scattered pebbles.

The region of Kekkya and Sary-Beles is an active seismic zone. In the past earthquakes to hit the 9-point scale and more.

Hydrography

The largest rivers of the county are the At-Bashi, Ak-Say and Kokshaal. The width of these rivers is 15-25 m, and 0.5 to 1.6 m depth, speed of flow is powerful enough 2 m/sec. The bottom riverbeds is rocky and sandy. The edges are gravel pits, often overhung earthen benches/hardened gravel forming alternately high and steep terraces. Mostly riverbeds of At-Bashi and Ak-Say brokenon many channels ranging from 3 to 10 m. Between these sleeves there are sandbars, pebble and rocky islets, flooded during high water (afternoon at the time of the maximum iron). The inland mountain rivers have a maximum width of 5 m and a depth of up to 1 m. The river flow is rapid, with many waterfalls, high and steep.

The main waterway of the Ak-Say valley is the Ak-Say river of the same name, the glaciers feeding mainly on China-Kyrgyz border ridge Kokshaal-Too. Due to the extremely gentle slope of the valley, the river and its tributaries have large bed, broken into several branches. Near the village of Chatyr-Tash, the valley has an altitude of 3000 m. After the merger with the Miudiuryum tributary, the river is then called Kokshaal and a goes into a significant reduction of Kokshaal-Too ridge to China and the Tarim Basin. There it merges with the waters of Sarydjaz. The huge volume of water flow into the lake Lop Nor in the Chinese province of Xinjiang (ex Chinese Turkestan), then lost in sands of the Taklamakan desert.

From the confluence of Kekkya and Kokshaal, the river that gives its name to the massif is fed by the glaciers of the west ridge of Kekkya and its tributary the Aksayuru. The river Karator is originated in the central glaciers chain Kekkya. While Kuneksaldy born from glaciers at the junction with the edge Kokshaal-Too. Watershed Kekkya by its tributary the Aksayuru, first goes along the ridge south of Kekkya in a turning movement west, north-west and north-west to empty into the Kekkya. The Aksayuru in its southern part is a floodplain with a wide, shallow rocky bottom. It runs through the gentle hills of lower elevations forming a peaceful landscape. The river itself is divided into several branches 1-5 meters wide, 0,5 meters deep, with a speed between 0.5 to 1 m/s. The slopes to the north and south of this part of the river often form clips. The river Aksayuru has made its way to the north through the rock, as evidenced by the satellite images and topographic maps. At the confluence of the Aksayuru and Kekkya the river again forms a narrow gorge. The difference in height of the river is 400 m (3700 - in the upper reaches of the river, 3300 to the confluence with the Kokshaal).

The Kekkya River is formed by two major tributaries, the rivers Tuyuk Botomoynok and Kelsu. In the south (upstream) of the river up to the confluence of Tuyuk Botomoynok and Kelsu the valley is about one kilometer wide and has in some places very marshy areas. Here the river reaches 15m wide. In the northern part of the river valley largely becomes a canyon. Here the river is 20 meters wide, with a flow of 1,5 m/s. The Kelsu River is located between the Keltan mountain, eastern part of Sary-Beles and its western part. Further upstream start a natural reservoir of the same name, lake Kelsu. This gives rise to the Kelsu river below. The Kelsu has a width in its central portion of about 15 m, the flow rate is about 1.5 m/s. The waters above lake Kelsu come from the river Kurumduk. The cliffs on both sides of the lake make it extraordinarily beautiful. The tributary Tuyuk Botomoynok comes from the east along the Keltan mountains. The valley of this river is wide with slopes of grassy banks, and sometimes partially flooded. Way back the entire Tuyuk Botomoynok valley, one can reach the Chinese border to a pass at 4026 m, the Butmakak Pass (see map at 100,000 th K43-130).

The Karator is a river fueled mainly by central glaciers of Kekkya chain. It is also fed by many eastern and western tributaries from hanging valleys of the main range and central spurs slightly north. In the southern part near the sources of Karator, before her turning to the north and reach of a wider valley, the river forms a beautiful canyon over a width of 20m which is difficult to walk along the banks. There it possible to bypass on the south shore heights. The central part of the valley is a gently sloping bedrock. Here the stream is divided into several arms of a width of 1 to 10 m at a speed of 0.8 to 1 m/s. The water volume of the river increases dramatically from noon. In the northern part, after merging with its largest western tributary, the river is made in a channel and flows into the river Kokshaal. The width of this part is 10 m. At the mouth of the Kokshaal is about 50 m wide.

Rivers freeze from November and thaw in March-April. Spring floods associated with the melting of the snow in the winter on the slopes and in the valleys in April-May. In June and July, during the period when the melting of eternal snows and glaciers is the most intensive there may also have summer floods. The lowest levels are reached from September and persist throughout the winter until spring.

Lake Kelsu and regional lakes

The largest lake in the Greater Ak-Say is Lake Chatyr-Kol. Its area is about 170 square kilometers. Depth, according to various estimates, range from 5 to 20 meters. Of the 24 rivers flowing into the lake, only the Kok River Aygyr has constant water. Despite the fact that the lake is completely closed its total mineralization is low and is between 0.5 to 1 mg/l. The water temperature in July and August ranges from 6°c to 16 °c. So in sunny days, we can swim!

In the Ak-Say valley close to the east, there are many small lakes, Kelsu lake, Kosh-Kol and others. Some of them are mineral water quality reservoir, but due to the inaccessibility of the area, they have hardly been studied. Groundwater in these mountains is found at very variable depths, but often very low. It was possible to identify groundwater in the valleys at 5 to 30 m deep. On the territory of At-Bashy district, there actually has several mineral springs rich in calcium carbonates. Some of them are used in the field of food industry for the production of drinking mineral water.

Flora

The forest vegetation in the area is low, it is made especially spruce Tien-Shan, mainly concentrated on the northern slope of the ridge of the At-Bashi. The southern slopes are completely devoid of forests by exposure to severe extreme continental climate. The extension of the southern slopes are often less pronounced, with a maximum length of five kilometers and is located in an alpine altitude sometimes over 3500 meters. The river valleys are deep in the mountains where grow the archa (juniper) and some other shrubs. Most mountain slopes are covered with short grass prairies. Above 3600 m dominate the various alpine plants resistant to cold, often gathered in confined clumps. The vegetation of the major inter-mountain valleys is steppe. This is a typical landscape where sagebrush steppe (variety of absinthe) abounds at an altitude of 3100-3550 m, forage grasses such as fescue form the remainder of this steppe (3500-3800 m). Under the terms steppe is semi-desert and cold desert (3550-3800 m).

Wildlife

The usual composition of mountain wildlife in Kyrgyzstan is present in the region in all its diversity. Birds are found as the black stork, hawk, golden eagle, the bearded vulture, the bar-headed goose, the steppe eagle, vulture, ..; among mammals: the goat, the sheep "Marco Polo" (argali), the red wolf, gazelle, bear, lynx, snow leopard. This ancient wealth of animals, attracts hunting for its commercial value. This is an area where we organize many hunting tours (too much !), especially for "Marco Polo" sheep and ibex, which aroused great interest from foreign hunters. Alas, the latter circumstance leads to the fact that wild animals are found increasingly difficult. And the valley is literally littered with dead animal horns. It should be noted that the mouflon "Marco Polo" (Ovis Argali, Ovis Ammon or Serverstovi) is on the Red List of Threatened Species IUCN.

The area Chatyr-Kol is a nesting area for thousands of geese, ducks and other birds.

Climate

The weather conditions in the area are quite stable and predictable. Most of the dry weather and good condition for snow and ice occur in the first half of August. The prevailing wind coming from the west and northwest. The climate is continental. The average annual temperature is 5°C to 6°C, the maximum is 24°C in summer but over a short period, and in winter it can reach -50°C. In the summer at an altitude of over 3000 m, it freezes every night.

In winter most tracks become impassable from mid-November to March inclusive (in large mountain depressions - from mid-November to mid-March). The winter season is characterized by a cold and cloudy weather. The air temperature in the afternoon, depending on the altitude varies from -3°C to -15°C and overnight at -20°C -30°C. (A minimum temperature of about -50°c has already been recorded). The snowfall is common. The thickness of the snow cover on the lower parts of the slopes and valleys is between 1-2 meters, high in the mountains it reaches 5-6 m, sometimes up to 10 m. At these altitudes avalanches are common mainly in spring. It arrived on January that in valleys there is almost no snow. Spring in most of the region last two months of April and May in the lower valleys two and half months (from mid-March to May). The weather in spring is unstable, usually covered with heavy rainfall (maximum in April). The day temperature varies from 10°C to -3°C, overnight to 5°C to -20°C. Summer lasts from June to August, this season is cool and dry. Daytime temperatures range from 5-7°C to 15-20°C and night of 4-6°C and 0 to 10°C for minimum. There is a bit of summer precipitation, mostly in the form of short storms or hail. Autumn starts in September and lasts until mid-November. It is marked by a clear and stable weather. In the mountains the snow can begin in early September. The temperature varies from 12°C to -7°C, and the night from 0°C to -20°C.

The prevailing winds of the hot season are Western, Oriental in the cold season. The wind speed is 2-3 m/s. The maximum wind strength is reached in winter (15 m/s or more). This area is also characterized by local thermal winds in the direction mountain-valley of low and medium power. They blow on the slopes of mountains and valleys at night and in the morning in one direction and opposite direction in the afternoon .

Due to the nature of the orography of Kokshaal-Too, Kekkya and Sary-Beles, the northern slopes are wetter, where glaciers are the most consistent. Glaciation has a great influence on the humidity. For example, the relative humidity of the summer months near rivers like Ak-Say (Kekkya) or Uzengegush (Kokshaal-Too) is 65% to 70%, that proves humidity relatively smugly, while the relative humidity in eastern Pamir is of the order of 21-28% and can often even fall to 9%.

Conditions of access to the area and organization of the stay

The area is in the At-Bashi district. It is also far enough from the Naryn regional center and further away from Bishkek. To get to the Ak-Say River Valley from Bishkek, you better have a 4x4 vehicle to navigate through the various altitudes and passes ranging from 2500 to 3800 meters. The road from Naryn borrows Kaindy pass to reach the road to the pass of Torugart in the depression of the Ak-Say. It is also possible to leave Naryn along the north slopes of At-Bashi to get to the pass of Torugart and Lake Chatyr-Kol in the opposite direction, this being less direct from Naryn. The end point on the road is the village of Chatyr-Tash.

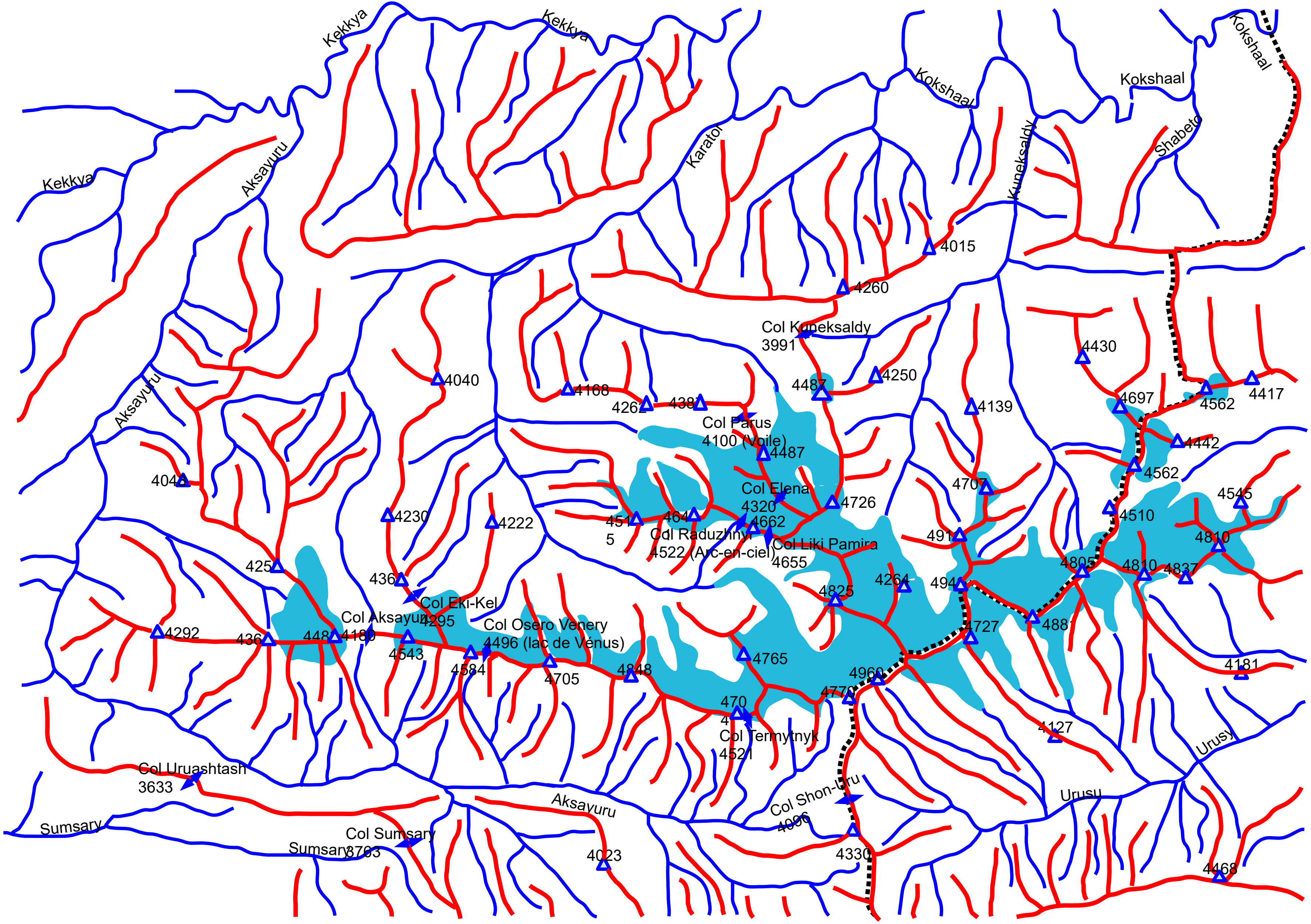
From there you have to join the "Kultur Center" Kekkya or Cyrashtash on the map (Kekkya upstream on the river). Sometimes it is possible to reach this "village" with 4x4 vehicles, knowing that the most common and most affordable way to travel this area is the horse transportation, which can be rented from shepherds. The place is a good base camp for exploring the surrounding high mountain valleys. The estimate of porting prices in 2006 to lease a horse carrying a load of 30 kg was 600-700 rubles for 15 km, giving rate change at that time about 20 euros.

We will equip with everything needed in terms of fresh food and/or base in major cities such as Bishkek or Naryn, the place is quite isolated and completely lacking stores in the summer breeding camps (jailoo). Even if local people about these distant pastures are very welcoming and will be ready to add to your dinner menu a lamb in your honor. Therefore, fairness and we recommend bringing some "sweeties" unusual in these parts.

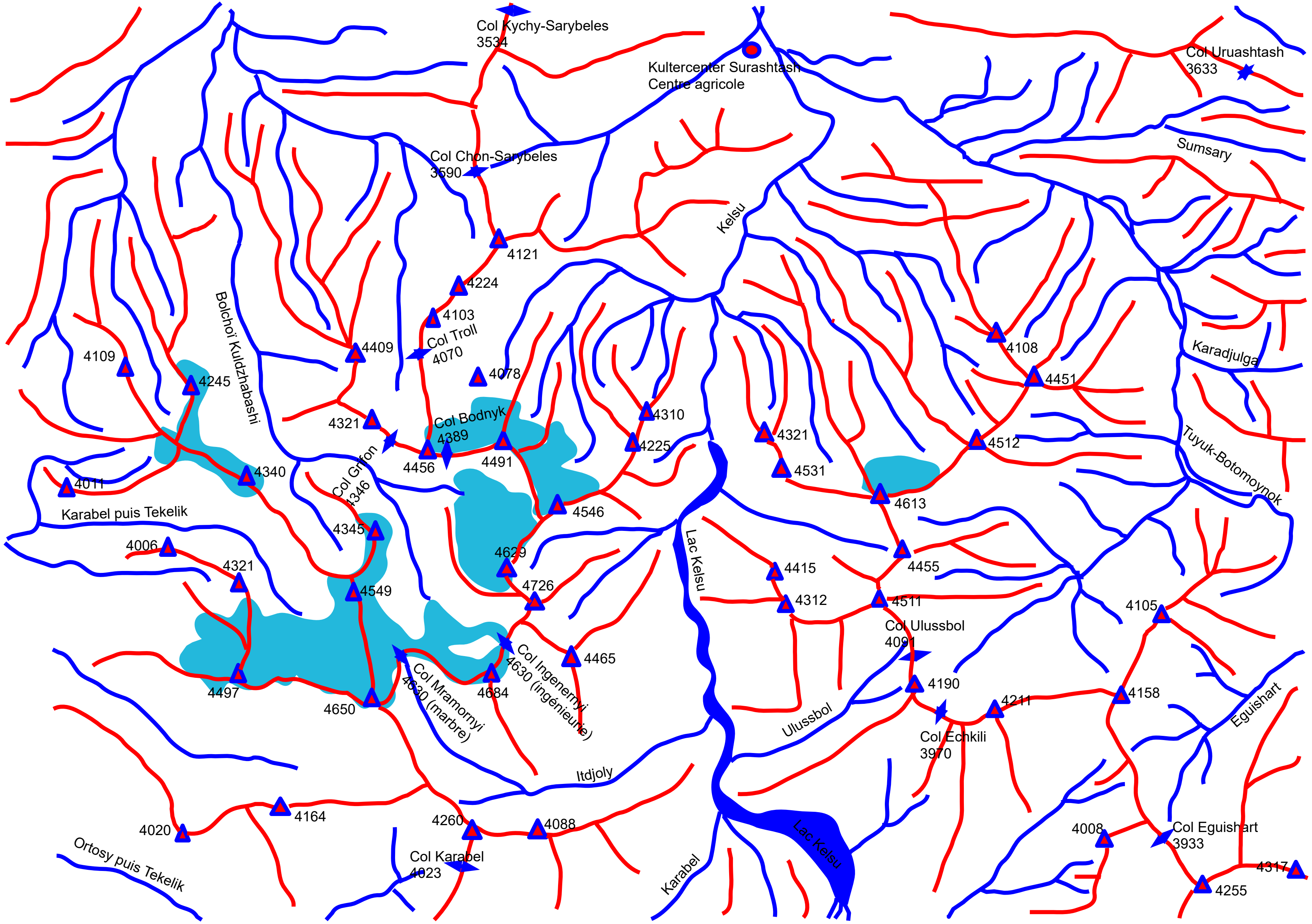
For the more adventurous who want to browse the lake Kelsu, kayaks can be used to quickly move to the opposite bank and extend well opportunities within the time exploration. Needless to say that you need to bring with you from Bishkek.

The region is in the border area and a special access permit is required there, as in all the valleys that lie south of a line At-Bashi, Janyjer and Borkoldoy.

Cartography. Maps 1/50 000th: k43-117-4, k43-129-2 and k43-118-3; 1/100 000th: k43-117, k43-129 and k43-118; 1/200 000th: k43-29.


Kekkya
Kekkya
Kokshaal
Kokshaal
Kokshaal
Kekkya
Aksayuru
Karatol
Shabeto
Kuneksaldy
4015
4260
Col Kuneksaldy
3991
4430
4250
4487
4040
4168
4262
438
Aksayuru
4139
4697
4562
4417
Col Parus
4100 (Voile)
4487
4442
404
4562
4707
Col Elena
4320
4726
4545
4230
4222
451
5
464
4662
4510
Col Raduzhnyi
4522 (Arc-en-ciel)
Col Liki Pamira
4655
491
4810
425
436
4805
4810
4837
4264
494
Col Eki-Kel
4825
Col Aksayuru
4295
488
4727
Col Osero Venery
4496 (lac de Vénus)
4292
436
448
4180
4543
4584
4705
4848
4765
4181
4960
4770
470
4
Col Termytnyk
4521
4127
Urusy
Col Uruashtash
3633
Col Shon-Uru
4096
Urusu
Aksayuru
Sumsary
Col Sumsary
3763
Sumsary
4023
4330
4468

Orographic scheme of Kekkya range


Col Kychy-Sarybeles
3534
Kultercenter Surashtash
Centre agricole
Col Uruashtash
3633
Sumsary
Col Chon-Sarybeles
3590
Kelsu
4121
4224
4103
Col Troll
4070
Bolchoi Kuldzhabashi
4409
4109
4245
4078
4108
4451
Karadjulga
4321
Col Bodnyk
4389
4491
4310
4225
4321
4512
Tuyuk-Botomoynok
4456
Col Grifon
4346
4340
4011
4531
4613
4546
Karabel puis Tekelik
4345
4006
4629
Lac Kelsu
4415
4455
4321
4549
4726
4312
4511
4105
Col Ulussbol
4091
4465
4190
4497
4650
Col Mramornyi
4630 (marbre)
4684
Col Ingenernyi
4630 (ingénieurie)
4211
4158
Ulussbol
Eguishart
Col Echkili
3970
Itdjoly
4164
4020
4260
4088
Col Karabel
4023
Ortosy puis Tekelik
Karabel
Lac Kelsu
4008
Col Eguishart
3933
4317
4255

Orographic scheme of Sary-Beles and Kell-Too range

A.6.20) The Moldo-Too range

Miscellaneous features

The Moldo-Too mountain is a wide range within the Inner Tien-Shan. Its longitudinal extension is 110 km and its greatest width is about 26 kilometers. To the east, the east-west extension is then gradually curves slightly to the North-East to reach the shores of Lake Song-Kül that it reverses again a longitudinal direction. Its altitude is relatively moderate at 4185 m but throughout its extension we find regularly some 4000 m summits. The mountain is located east of Kekkirim-Too, on north of Ak-Shyyrak and south of Lake Song-Kül, as far as its position is particularly central. This is also what makes it a little-known mountain, if at all.

It is separated in the west of Kekkirim-Too by the deep gorges of the Naryn River. Several rivers bathe its various slopes. To the north in order from west to east, the Kekemeren, the Myn Kush and the watershed of Lake Song-Kül. The southern slope is constantly surrounded by the Naryn river. There is almost no glacier, maybe 2 or 3 tracks of permanent snowfields. The climate of the region is extreme continental with an emphasis of drought due to the central position of the mountain on the Kyrgyz territory. Because of the total lack of glacier, the relief is particularly dry, both north and south. The water is so scarce that must be taken into account on the chosen trail.

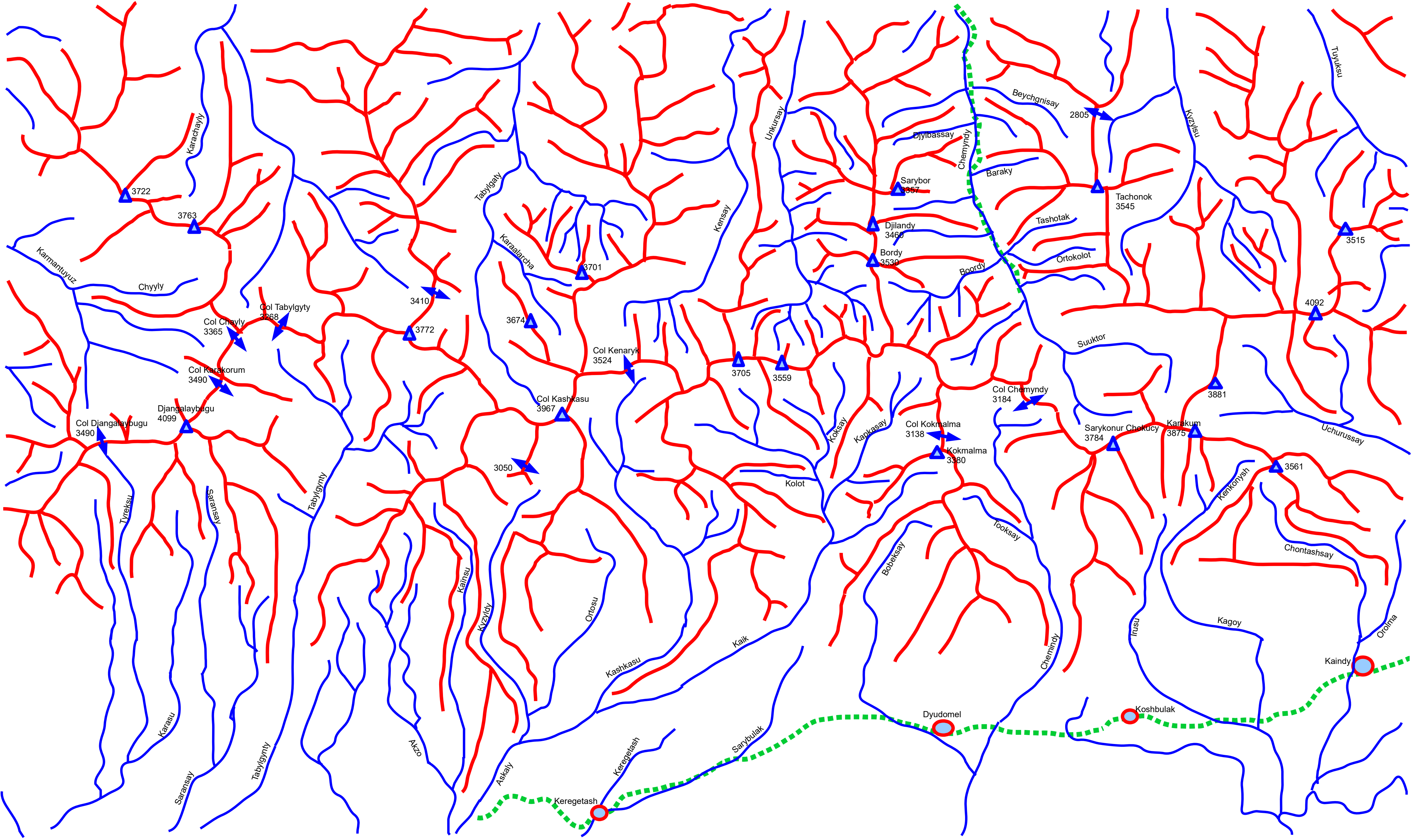
The mountain is composed mainly of sedimentary rocks such as limestone in abundance. Central and western parts have a relatively tormented with fairly deep valleys relief (2200-4000 elevation) both north and south. To the east, approaching the lake Song-Kül it includes a high-altitude valley around 3000 in the North. The range ends with extensive tabular zones around 3600-3900 meters, settled in the canyons with steep slopes. This is an ideal area, although a little dry, for alpine hikes to discover mountainous steppe landscapes, and rocky canyons.

In terms of mountaineering and hiking, there is not much information on the range.

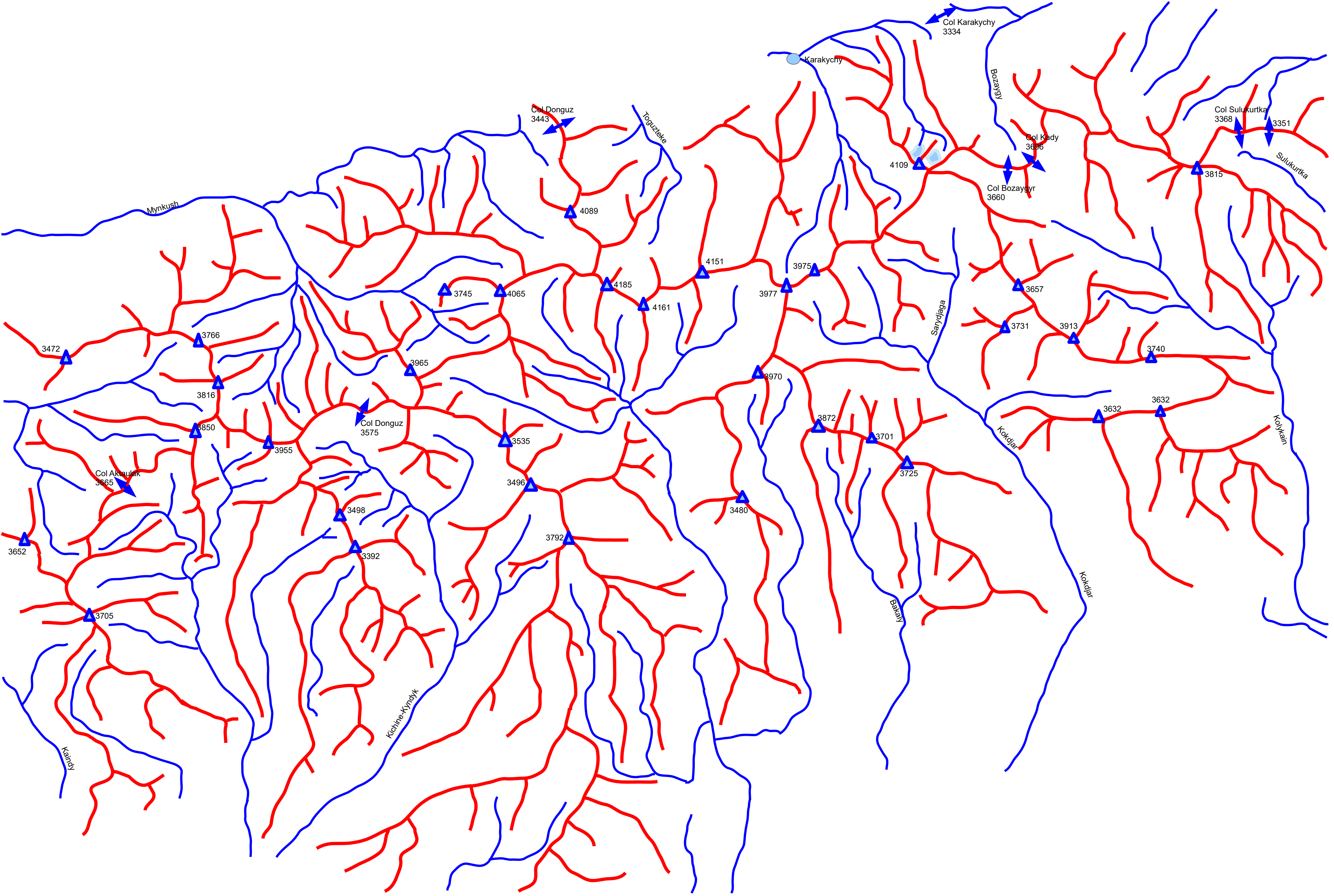
Access to the mountain

Moldo-Too is one of the range most easily accessible from the south side, along the roads following the large valley of Naryn. But this requires cross the range of Ferghana by the Kaldamo pass road and reach the villages south side as Kazarman, then cross by road the Naryn river and reach the villages of the right bank. Also coming to the city of Naryn, and reach the village of Ugut then cross to the other side towards Akkiya. For access to the North Slope, road from Kochkor and the Kyzart pass is a classic one. You must then follow south towards the villages Aral/Ak-Tash, Sarybulak, and engage in the valley that leads to the village of Chemykdy in the valley of the same name. The eastern part of the range is face directly the north shore of Lake Song-Kul. To enter the range one can also used traditional pasture trails that provide access to regular passes placed along the main ridge of the range.

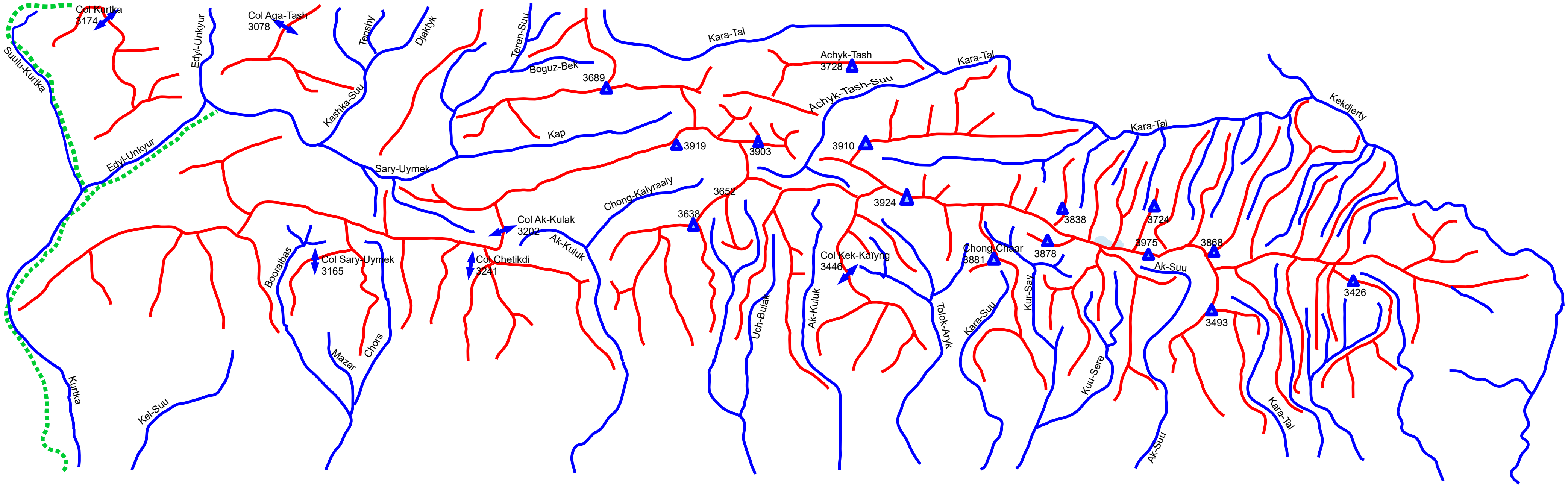
Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-89 (West), k43-90 (Centre), k43-91 (East); 1/200 000th: k43-21


Tuyuksu
Beychgnisay
2805
Karachayly
Unkursay
Djylbassay
Chemyndy
Kyzylsu
Sarybor
3357
Baraky
3722
Tabylgaty
Tachonok
3545
Kensay
3763
Djilandy
3460
Tashotak
3515
Karmantuyuz
Bordy
3530
Ortokolot
Chyyly
Karaalarcha
3701
Boordy
3410
4092
Col Tabylgyty
3268
Col Chayly
3365
3674
3772
Suuktor
Col Kenaryk
3524
3705
3559
Col Karakorum
3490
3881
Col Kashkasu
3967
Col Chemyndy
3184
Djangalaybugu
4099
Col Djangalaybugu
3490
Koksay
Kankasay
Col Kokmalma
3138
Sarykonur Chokucy
3784
Karakum
3875
Uchurussay
Kokmalma
3380
3050
3561
Kolot
Tyreksu
Saransay
Tabylgynty
Kenkonysh
Tooksay
Chontashsay
Bobeksay
Kaïnsu
Kyzyldy
Ortosu
Kagoy
Irusu
Orolma
Kaik
Chemindy
Kaindy
Kashkasu
Dyudomel
Koshbulak
Karasu
Akzo
Keregetash
Sarybulak
Askaly
Saransay
Tabylgynty
Keregetash

Orographic scheme of Moldo-Too range, western area


Col Karakychy
3334
Karakychy
Bozaygy
Col Donguz
3443
Toguzteke
4109
Col Kady
3696
Col Bozaygyr
3660
Col Sulukurtka
3368
3351
Sulukurtka
3815
Mynkush
4089
4151
3975
3977
4185
4161
3745
4065
3657
3731
3913
3740
Sarydjaga
3766
3472
3965
3816
3970
3632
3632
3850
Col Donguz
3575
3955
3535
3872
3701
Kokdjar
Kolykain
Col Aktaulak
3665
3496
3725
3498
3480
3652
3792
3392
Kokdjar
3705
Bakaly
Kichine-Kyndyk
Kaindy

Orographic scheme of Moldo-Too range, central area


Col Kurtka
3174
Col Aga-Tash
3078
Edyl-Unkyur
Tenshy
Djaktyk
Teren-Suu
Kara-Tal
Achyk-Tash
3728
Kara-Tal
Boguz-Bek
3689
Suulu-Kurtka
Kashka-Suu
Achyk-Tash-Suu
Kap
Kekdjerty
Kara-Tal
3919
3903
3910
Edyl-Unkyur
Sary-Uymek
Chong-Kalyraaly
3652
3924
3638
Col Ak-Kulak
3202
3838
3724
Ak-Kuluk
3975
3868
Booralbas
Col Sary-Uymek
3165
Col Chetikdi
3241
Col Kek-Kaiyng
3446
Chong-Chaar
3881
3878
Ak-Suu
3426
Uch-Bulak
Ak-Kuluk
Tolok-Aryk
Kara-Suu
Kur-Say
3493
Mazar
Chors
Kurtka
Kel-Suu
Kuu-Sere
Kara-Tal
Ak-Suu

Orographic scheme of Moldo-Too range, eastern area

A.6.21) The ranges of the Naryn-Too and Ulan

Miscellaneous features

The mountains of Naryn-Too and Ulan are ranges parts to the east of the inner region of the Tien-Shan. Depending on whether it included the eastern margins or not, the longitudinal extension of Naryn-Too range varies between 130 km and 184 km, for greater width of 18 km. The two ranges are located immediately southeast of the city of Naryn. To the east lies the small range of Chakyr-Korum, south both mountains are bordered by the large valley of the At-Bashi river, to the west the passes of low altitudes (3000) separate from the mountainous backbone of At-Bashi. The range of Ulan stuck in the eastern part of Naryn-Too and nascent west ridge of Jany-Jer. The Ulan is bordered by the rivers of Ulan North and Jany-Jersouth, the two components of the At-Bashi. To the east lies the pass of the Ulan.

From a hydrographic point of view, these mountains are bordered to the north by the Naryn river and south by the At-Bashi river. In the extreme southeast, the Naryn-Too is separated by Jany-Jer river that gives its name to the same range south. In the East Karakol river valley separates the Naryn-Too with the Chakyr-Korum.

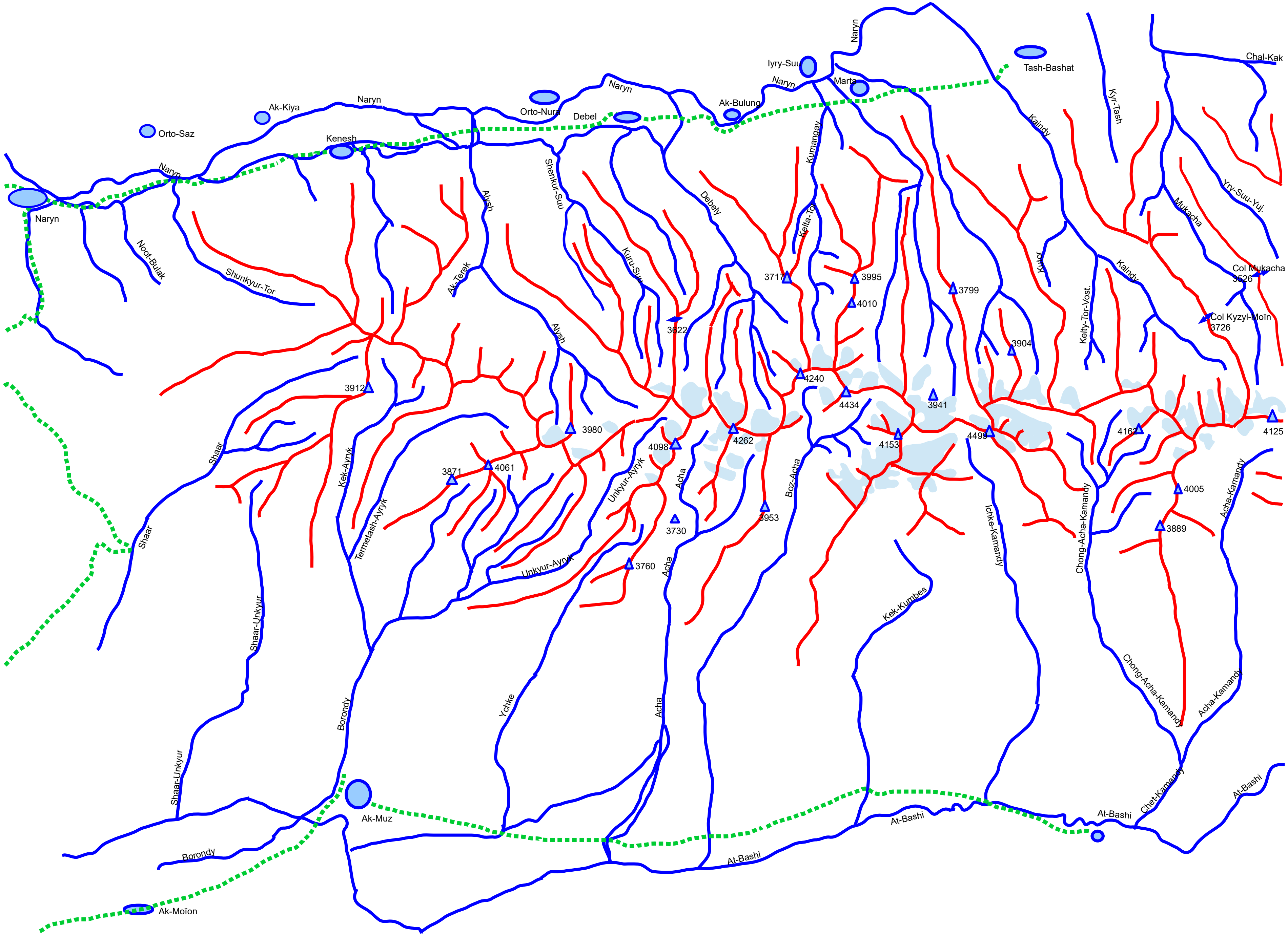
The maximum height of Naryn-Too is 4530 m, that of Ulan 4542. The ridges are composed of limestone, granite and metamorphic schist. The northern slope of Naryn-Too, next to the Naryn valley, shapes steep and rocky gorges between 2150 and 4400 on nearly 90 km to the east of the city of Naryn. It's in the bottom of the first northern valleys that glaciers are housed, short between 3700 and 4500. In these areas there are preserved reserves of Tien-Shan spruce forests. South slopes are less steep, often ending in a sandy clay on the foothills in the large valley of the At-Bashi around 2500 m. The southern slope is dominated by dry grassland and pre-elevation steppe landscapes, dominated by rocky cliffs and steep slopes of ridges Naryn-Too and Ulan. Further east on the two slopes north and south, there are wider valleys and glaciers have most important extensions in hollow profiled valleys. In this area of Ulan the mountains have valley bottom up to 3300 with a climb of 1000 m on average. In the east and west valleys of Jany-Jer bordering the south side of the eastern Naryn-Too, the bottom is at 3500 m altitude and glacial expansion is more important. Again the valleys is clearly digging toward its back to end up on steep slopes and beautiful north glacial faces and rock mixed.

The concentration of over 4000 in Naryn-Too and Ulan (a hundred in view of the topographic maps), the strong ice implantation, even more pronounced towards the East, steepness terminal glacial slopes and rocky permanent presence upper, give these range excellent potential for mountaineering. The technical exploration remains to be done on an almost virgin area without any known and listed ascent.

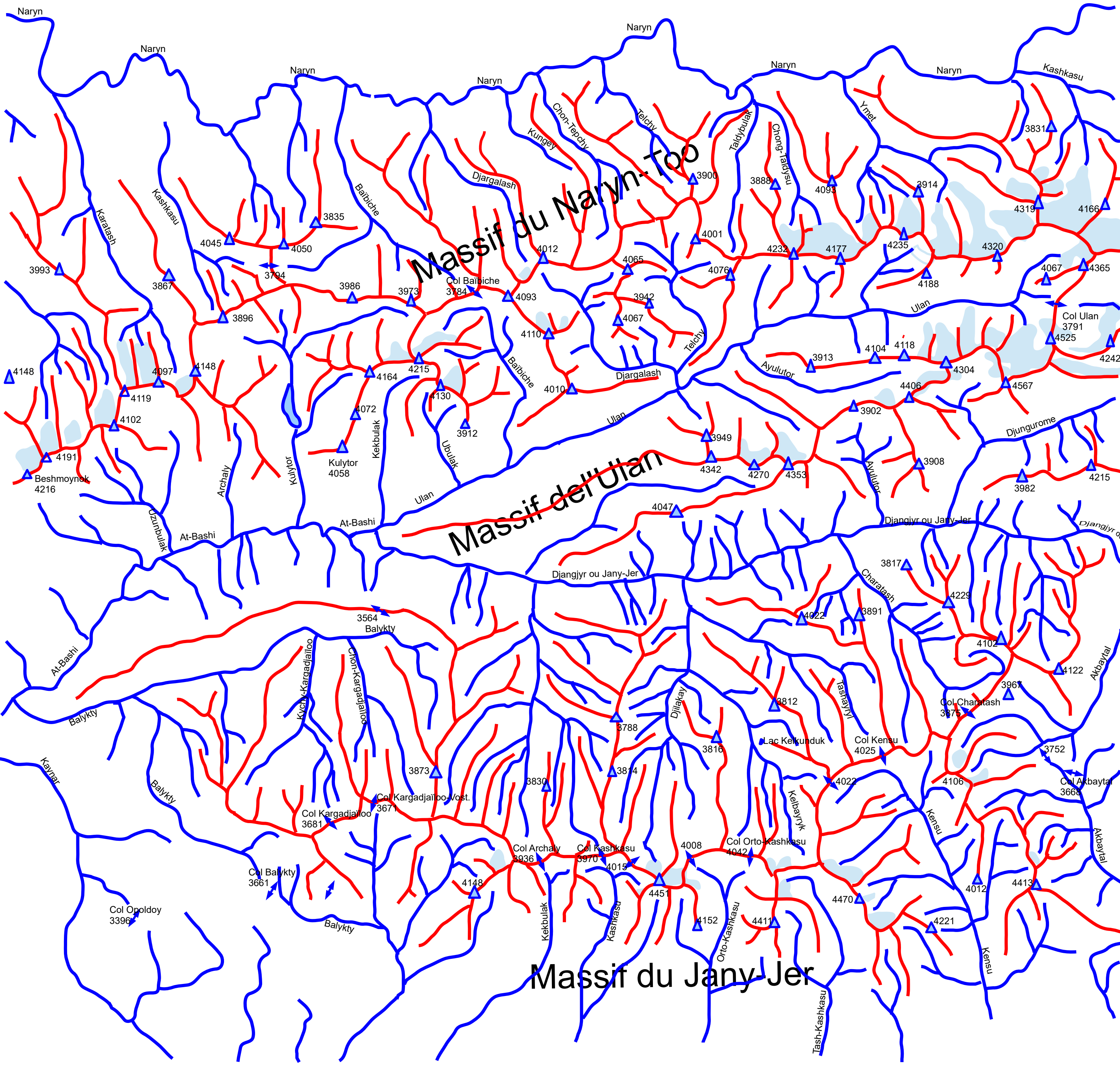
Access to the mountain

The proximity of the city of Naryn, makes access valleys Northwest particularly easily by following the road that ends at Tash-Bashat, at the beginnif on one of the frequent gorges on the Naryn. A dozen side valleys are easily accessible. Beyond, to the East, it must follow the trail on the left bank of Naryn. To the south side, one start from the city of Naryn towards the valley of the At-Bashi ten kilometers to the south by the road, then we go on to the East following upstream ofAt-Bashi River by road and the tracks to the confluence of Ulan and Jany-Jer. Virtually all valleys are accessible by all-terrain vehicle and are convenient for establishing base camps. Generally for access first difficulties it must be between one and three hours of walking.

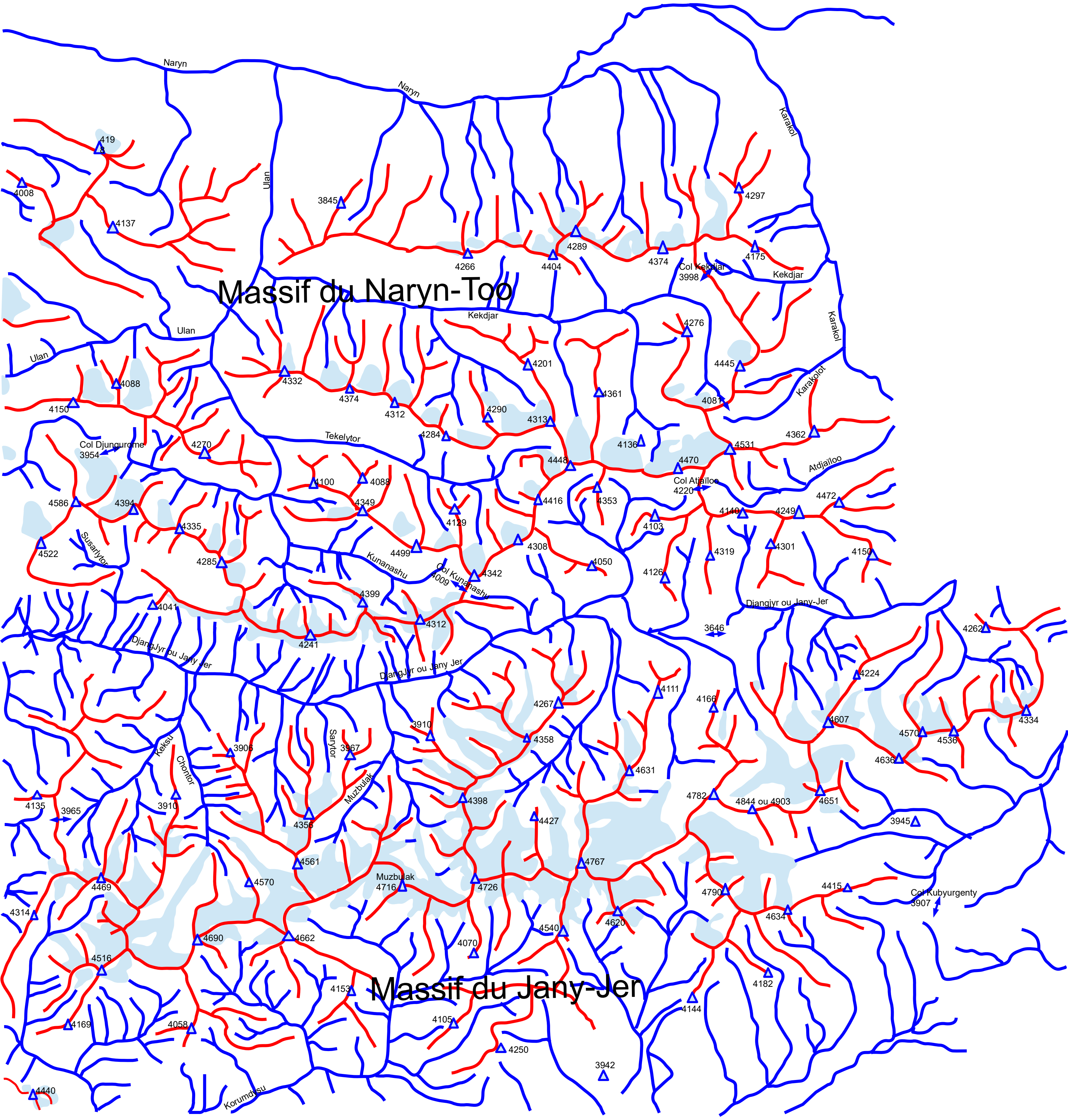
Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-93 (Naryn-Too Northwest) k43-94 (Naryn-Too North Centre, Ulan) k43-95 (Naryn-Too East), k43-106 (Jany Jer West) k43-107 (Jany Jer); 1/200 000th: k43-23 (Naryn-Too slope north and center, Ulan) k43-24 (Naryn-Too East), k43-29 (Jany Jer West), k43-30 (Jany Jer)


Naryn
Chal-Kak
Iyry-Suu
Tash-Bashat
Naryn
Marta
Ak-Bulung
Naryn
Orto-Nura
Debel
Naryn
Ak-Kiya
Orto-Saz
Kenesh
Naryn
Naryn
Kyr-Tash
Kaindy
Kumangay
Shenkur-Suu
Alysh
Debely
Yry-Suu-Yuj.
Mukacha
Noot-Bulak
Shunkyur-Tor
Kelta-To
Ak-Terek
Kuru-Suu
Kutor
Kaindy
Col Mukacha
3526
3717
3995
3799
4010
Kelty-Tor-Vost.
Col Kyzyl-Moïn
3726
3022
Alysh
3904
3912
4240
4434
3941
4125
3980
4262
4153
4499
4162
4098
4061
3871
Shaar
Kek-Ayryk
Unkyur-Ayryk
Acha
Boz-Acha
4005
Acha-Kamandy
Chong-Acha-Kamandy
3730
3953
3889
Ichke-Kamandy
Shaar
Termetash-Ayryk
Unkyur-Ayryk
3760
Acha
Kek-Kumbes
Shaar-Unkyur
Chong-Acha-Kamandy
Acha-Kamandy
Ychke
Acha
Borondy
Chet-Kamandy
At-Bashi
Shaar-Unkyur
Ak-Muz
At-Bashi
At-Bashi
Borondy
At-Bashi
Ak-Moïon

Orographic scheme of Naryn-Too range, western area


Naryn
Naryn
Naryn
Naryn
Naryn
Naryn
Naryn
Kashkasu
Chon-Tepchy
Telchy
Kungey
Taldybulak
Chong-Taldysu
Ymet
Massif du Naryn-Too
3831
3900
3888
4093
3914
4319
4166
Karatash
Kashkasu
Baïbiche
Djargalash
3835
4045
4050
4001
4232
4177
4235
4320
3993
3867
3794
3986
3973
Col Baïbiche
3784
4012
4065
4076
4188
4067
4365
4093
3942
4067
Ulan
Col Ulan
3791
4525
3896
4110
Telchy
4148
4148
4097
4164
4215
Baïbiche
3913
4104
4118
4304
4242
Ayulutor
Djargalash
4010
4406
4567
4119
4130
4102
4072
3912
Ulan
3902
4191
Beshmoynok
4216
Kulytor
4058
Kekbulak
Ubulak
Archaly
Kulytor
3949
Djungurome
4342
4270
4353
3908
Ayulutor
3982
4215
Massif de l'Ulan
Ulan
Uzunbulak
At-Bashi
At-Bashi
4047
Djangjyr ou Jany-Jer
Djangjyr ou Jany-Jer
Djangjyr o
3817
Charatash
4229
3564
Balykty
4022
3891
4102
At-Bashi
Kychy-Kargadjaïloo
Chon-Kargadjaïloo
4122
Akbaytal
3967
Balykty
3812
Tashayryl
Col Charatash
3875
Djilakay
3788
3816
Lac Kelkunduk
Col Kensu
4025
3752
3873
3814
3830
Kaynar
Balykty
Col Kargadjaïloo-Vost.
3671
Col Kargadjaïloo
3681
4022
4106
Col Akbaytal
3668
Kelbayryk
Kensu
Akbaytal
Col Archaly
3936
Col Kashkasu
3970
4015
4008
Col Orto-Kashkasu
4042
Col Balykty
3661
4148
4451
4470
4012
4413
Col Opoldoy
3396
Balykty
Kekbulak
Kashkasu
4152
Orto-Kashkasu
4411
4221
Kensu
Massif du Jany-Jer
Tash-Kashkasu

Orographic scheme of Naryn-Too, Ulan and Jany-Jer ranges, central area


Naryn
Naryn
Karakol
Ulan
419
4008
4137
3845
4297
4289
4266
4404
4374
4175
Col Kekdjar
3998
Kekdjar
Massif du Naryn-Too
Kekdjar
Karakol
Ulan
Ulan
4276
4201
4088
4332
4374
4312
4445
Karakolot
4361
4150
4081
4290
4313
4284
4362
Tekelytor
4531
Col Djungurome
3954
4270
4136
4448
4470
Atdjailoo
Col Atjailoo
4220
4100
4088
4353
4472
4586
4394
4416
4349
4140
4249
4129
4103
4335
Susarlytor
4522
4499
4308
4319
4301
4150
4285
Kunanashu
Col Kunanashu
4009
4342
4050
4126
4399
Diangjyr ou Jany-Jer
4041
4312
3646
4262
4241
Djangjyr ou Jany Jer
Djangjyr ou Jany Jer
4224
4111
4166
4267
3910
4607
4334
3906
Sarytor
3967
4358
4570
4536
Keksu
Chontor
4631
4636
Muzbulak
4135
3965
3910
4782
4398
4844 ou 4903
4651
4356
4427
3945
4561
4767
Muzbulak
4716
4469
4570
4726
4415
Col Kubyurgenty
3907
4790
4314
4620
4634
4540
4690
4662
4070
4516
Massif du Jany-Jer
4153
4182
4144
4105
4169
4058
4250
3942
4440
Korumdusu

Orographic scheme of Naryn-Too and Jany-Jer ranges, eastern area

A.6.22) The Nura range

Miscellaneous features

Nura mountain extends 45 km in length from east to west and 24 km wide. It is located immediately north of the city of Naryn. It has a small glacial system of twenty medium sized glaciers, all located on the northern slope. We count on the main ridge and lateral buttresses also some twenty summits over 4000.

The south side overlooks the large valley of the Naryn River and the city of the same name, whose elevation is about 2200 to 2500. Many livestock trails achieve from the southern foothills suburb of Naryn.

To the north is a small valley of higher altitude around 3000 meters, the Kokturpak river Valley to the west and the east Sarykunguey river valley separated by a flat pass at 3556 m. We can consider that you enter here in the territory of high-altitude pastures, called "sirt." Besides the elevation gain, the north zone has another interest that access easily to the range of the Kapka-Tash, a large tabular area around 4000 meters altitude, in peneplain relief, probably due to abrasion of ancient ice caps. It is ideal for alpine hikes to explore open steppes mountainous landscapes.

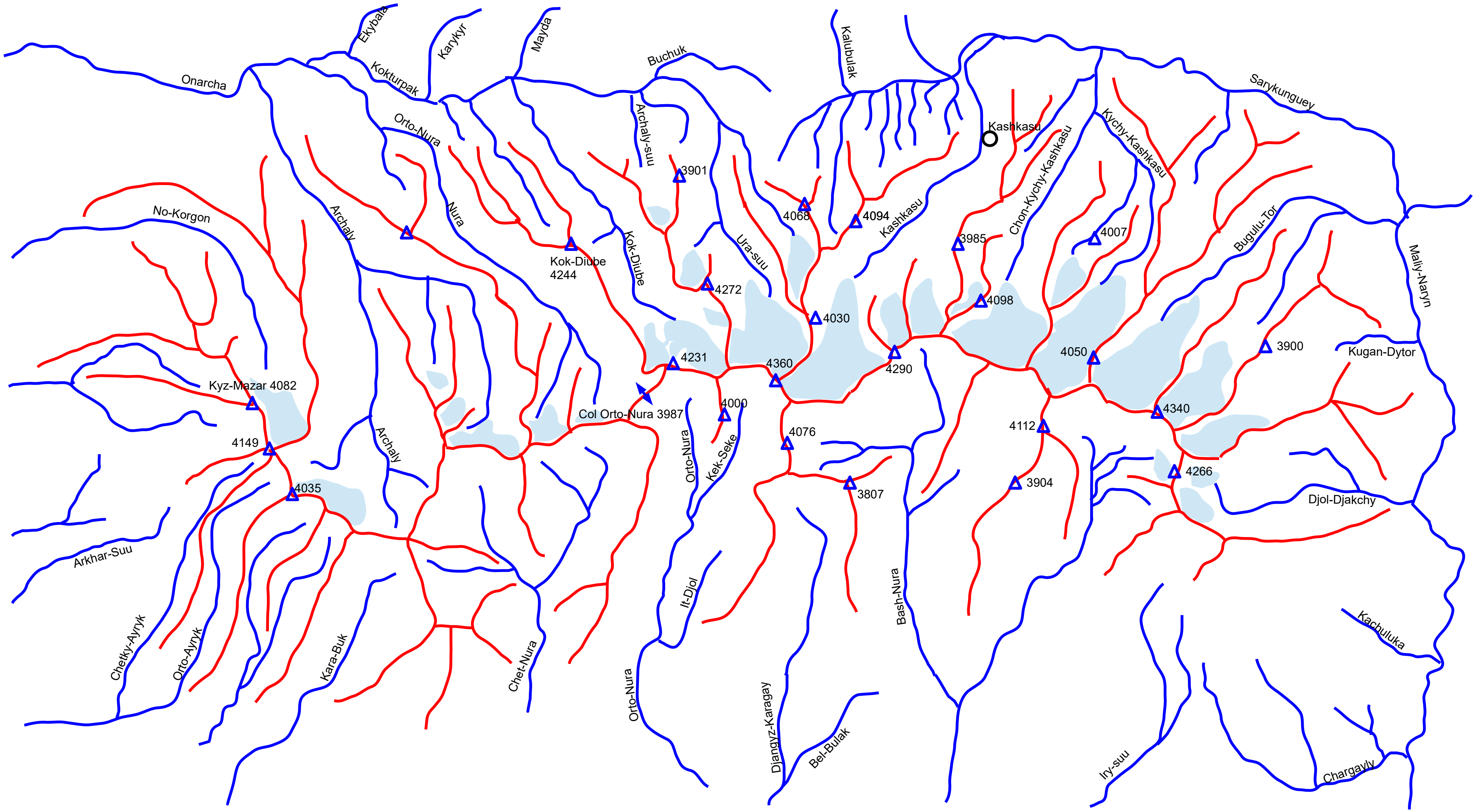
On the main ridge of Nura, the north slopes have received rather flat glaciers between steep rocky slopes, from 3600 to the peaks around 4000-4200. Some upper glacier tongues must have steeper slopes. The southern slopes are rocky and dry as often in the interior of the Tien-Shan mountains.

Everything should not be totally devoid of interest for firstly mountaineering in a range to discover and to document it and secondly for the practice of hiking combined with the Kapka-Tash on north.

Access to the mountain

The most direct access to mountain is from the city of Naryn going up the southern slopes from the suburbs. Just choose one of the valleys to establish the first base camp with a one-day of walking, close to a spring water source because breeding farms is a characteristic of the region. The Orto-Nura pass at 3987 m is a good entry point to the mountain on its main crest. To the north slope, it will bypass the range to the east by the track that goes up the Maliy-Naryn valley to reach the old mining village of Kashkasu (we leave the Djalpakbel Pass Trail in the mountains of Karagoman).

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-81 (North Slope), k43-93 (south side)


Ekybata
Karykyr
Mayda
Onarcha
Kokturpak
Buchuk
Kalubulak
Sarykunguey
Orto-Nura
Archaly-suu
3901
Kashkasu
Kychy-Kashkasu
Chon-Kychy-Kashkasu
No-Korgon
Archaly
Nura
4068
4094
Kashkasu
3985
4007
Bugulu-Tor
Maliy-Naryn
Kok-Diube
Kok-Diube
4244
Ura-suu
4272
4030
4098
4231
4360
4290
4050
3900
Kugan-Dytor
Kyz-Mazar 4082
4000
4340
Col Orto-Nura 3987
4076
4112
4149
Archaly
Orto-Nura
Kek-Seke
4266
4035
3807
3904
Djol-Djakchy
Arkhar-Suu
It-Djol
Bash-Nura
Kachuluka
Chetky-Ayryk
Orto-Ayryk
Kara-Buk
Chet-Nura
Orto-Nura
Djangyz-Karagay
Bel-Bulak
Iry-suu
Chargayly

Orographic scheme of Nura range

A.6.23) The Sary-Kamysh range

Miscellaneous features

The mountain of Sary-Kamysh is low extension in length of 39 km from east to west, 17 km in width. It is located southeast of Suusamyr-Too, west of Kabak-Too and north of the largest range of Moldo-Too whose altitude is comparable. The Sary-Kamysh culminates at 4042 m. The range is bordered to the north, east , and south by Kekemeren River, a large tributary of Naryn river.

On the north side one path exists on the hillsides to 3200. The crest is devoid of access listed by Soviet cartographers except a glacial unnamed passes at 3700 meters accessed via a North-South Trail from the balcony footpath of the north side. This range does not seem to have major alpine challenge, only two peaks over 4000 in fact, but must be suitable for hiking.

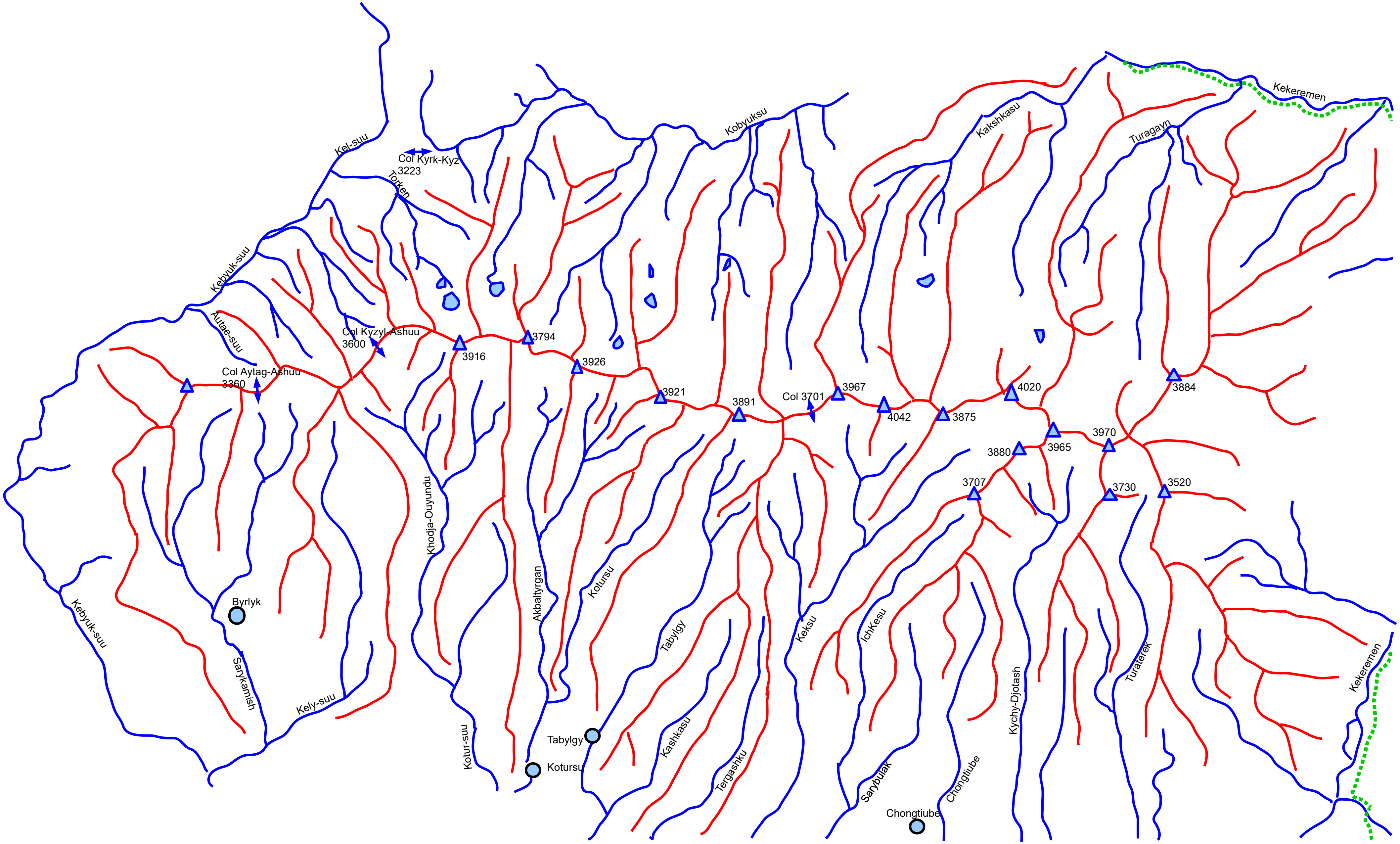
The balcony trail starts from the gorges of Kekemeren east along the river Karakungey.

The North Slope have 7 or 8 short glaciers. The hiking area remains to be discovered with possible surprises, even alpine ones, in a particularly wild mountain scenery outside the trails of Kyrgyz mountain pastures.

Access to the mountain

Access to mountain is essentially across the road Ribache-Kochkor-Kyzart Pass-Chaek-Aral in the North-East or the road of Suusamyr from Bishkek. The North Slope is accessible from the village of Kyzyloy in the gorges of Kekemeren. The south side is accessible from the gorges of Kekemeren at the village of Kyzylkurgan.

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-77


Kel-suu
Col Kyrk-Kyz
3223
Torken
Kobyuksu
Kakshkasu
Kekeremen
Turagayn
Kebyuk-suu
Autae-suu
Col Kyzyl-Ashuu
3600
3916
3794
3926
Col Aytag-Ashuu
3360
3921
3891
Col 3701
3967
4042
3875
4020
3884
3965
3970
3880
3707
3730
3520
Khodja-Ouyundu
Akbaltyrgan
Kotursu
Tabylgy
Keksu
IchKesu
Kychy-Djotash
Turaterek
Kekeremen
Kebyuk-suu
Byrlyk
Sarykamish
Kely-suu
Kotur-suu
Tabylgy
Kotursu
Kashkasu
Tergashku
Sarybulak
Chongtiube
Chongtiube

Orographic scheme of Sary-Kamysh range

A.6.24) The ranges of the Song Kül-Too and Ak-Tash

Miscellaneous features

Song-Kül-Too and Ak-Tash ranges form a crescent around the famous lake Song-Kül. The lake is the second largest lake of natural water in Kyrgyzstan after Lake Issyk-Kül. In third place we find the Chatyr-Kol lake to the south of the country, of equal importance with the Toktogul water reservoir on Naryn river. Around the lake a few mountain ranges succeeded: Song-Kül-Too (3991 or 3957 m) to the north, the Ak-Tash (3853 m) a small isolation centered and further east away the mountains the Bayduly then the Kapka-Tash (northern Naryn). On south of lake lies the Moldo-Too mountains. The westernmost part of the Song-Kül-Too are named Balykty. Similarly there is sometimes confusion between the maps at 100 000th and 200 000th on the interface between the mountains Song-Kül-Too and Bayduly. Here we choose to limit the east of Song-Too-Kül to Dolon pass road (3038).

With the lake Song-Kül, we enter fully into the Kyrgyz universe in essence: extensive pastoral life, vast pen field of grassland and pastures in soft relief, iridescent in the sun, the"aïl" (traditionnal villages) of white or gray yurts dotting in the ocean of grass, slender silhouettes of docile horses under the hand of man, discrete noises from domestic activities in the radiant summer, sometimes the sound of an engine and return to the family on jailoos after a trip onto the next town. It is in these places that the eye embraces the wide successions of mountains, all closed or distants, sometimes capped with eternal snow.

Here no high and proud mountain with ice lace,no just gentle and peaceful slopes suitable for our backpacker steps, explorer of life in the Kyrgyz mountain pasture. It borders 4000 in altitude, and always one looks across the expanse of cold and fresh water, the peaceful lake above 3000.

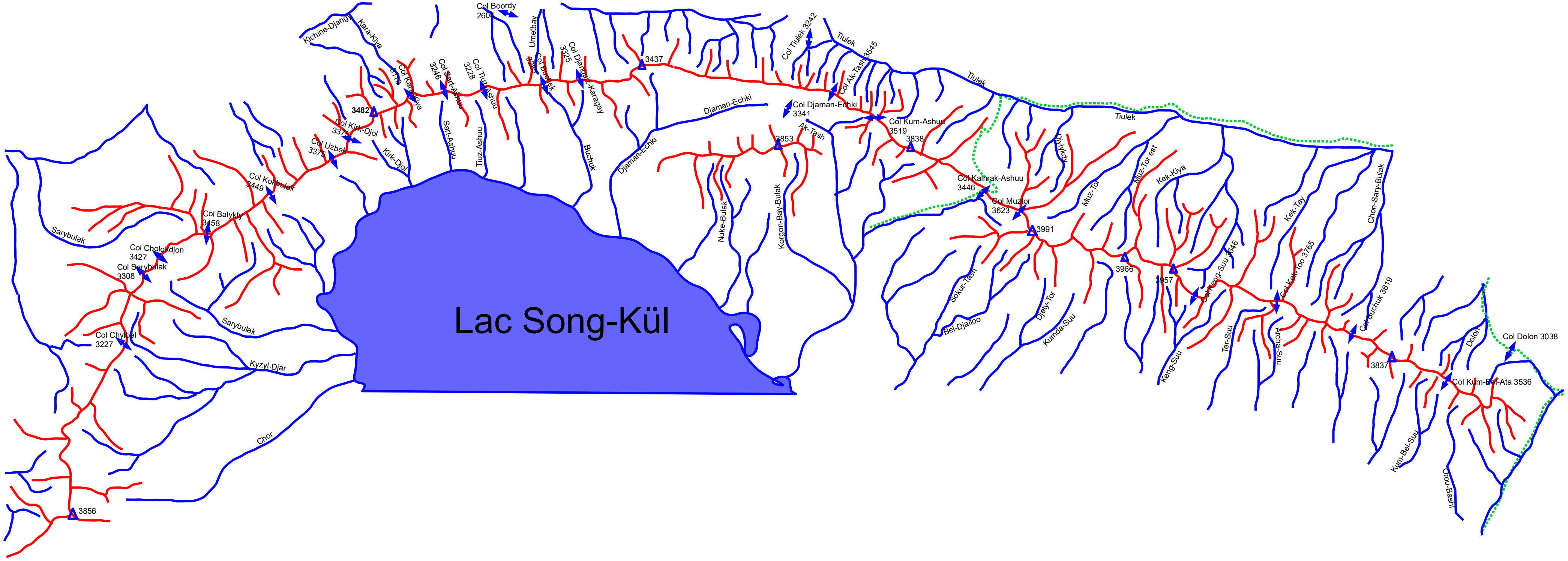
Field of hiking, trekking, the meeting with the summer semi-nomadic life, here there exists many possibilities of walking, starting with that of the ridge line and its many transhumance passes. A classic trek also includes the trail from the pass Kyzart (Kochkor road) and go south to meet the lake (Shaar-Archa and Djanguiz-Karagay passes). Or else we will start from the villages of Kyzart/Djumgal in Southeast direction to the Uzbek or Kirk-Djol passes. And these are just a few examples of countless possibilities.

Still, it must also take good care to the location of camps, nearby water source, relatively distant of extensive pastures. A careful examination of the environment is sometimes enough to find the right location: up the mountain, little or no trace of cattle dejection, resurgent springs, the clean area around the river a few hundred meters distance from human settlement.

Access to the mountain

The Song-Kül lake is slowly becoming a destination increasingly popular for hikes. The highway Bishkek-Kochkor-Ribache-Kyzart-Djumgal is a possibility, as well as the road Sarybulak-Kochkor-Dolon Pass/Pass Kalmak-Ashuu.

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-79 (Song-Too-Kül) k43-80 (Song-Too-Kül, Bayduly); 1/200 000th: k43-22.


Lac Song-Kül
Kichine-Djangy
Kara-Kiya
Col Boordy
2604
Umetbay
3719
Col Kara-Kiya
3246
Col Sart-Ashuu
3228
Col Tiuz-Ashuu
3285
Col Buchek
3325
Col Djanguiz-Karagay
3437
3482
Col Kirk-Djol
3375
Col Uzbek
3375
Kirk-Djol
Sart-Ashuu
Tiuz-Ashuu
Buchuk
Djaman-Echki
Djaman-Echki
Col Tiulek 3242
Tiulek
Col Ak-Tash 3545
Tiulek
Col Djaman-Echki
3341
Col Kum-Ashuu
3519
3838
Ak-Tash
3853
Nuke-Bulak
Korgon-Bay-Bulak
Tiulek
Diylykdy
Col Kalmak-Ashuu
3446
Col Muztor
3623
3991
Muz-Tor
Muz-Tor est
Kek-Kiya
3966
3957
Col Keng-Suu 3646
Kek-Tay
Col Kek-Too 3765
Chon-Sary-Bulak
Col Buchuk 3619
3837
Col Kum-Bel-Ata 3536
Col Dolon 3038
Dolon
Kum-Bel-Suu
Orou-Bashi
Sokur-Tash
Bel-Djaïloo
Djety-Tor
Kumda-Suu
Keng-Suu
Ter-Suu
Archa-Suu
Col Kokbulak
3449
Col Balykty
3458
Sarybulak
Col Cholokdjon
3427
Col Sarybulak
3308
Sarybulak
Col Chylbel
3227
Kyzyl-Djar
Chor
3856

Orographic scheme of Song-Kül-Too and Ak-Tash ranges

A.6.25) The Suusamyr-Too range

Miscellaneous features

The Suusamyr-Too mountain is an important range within the Tien-Shan. The longitudinal extension is of 125-130 km and the width of about thirty kilometers. Its altitude is relatively moderate at 4048 m. The mountain is located south-east of the Talas Ala-Too range, directly south of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too, separated from this latter by the broad valley of Suusamyr. South of the range is the large valley of Toktogul, and east the ranges of Djumgal-Too and Oy-Kaing, separated by the gorges Kekemeren.

The mountain consists mainly of granite and metamorphic schist of lower paleozoic. There are some glaciers, with short extension, located in the north side and on the highest parts above 3800 meters altitude. In the far west, the gorges of the Chichkan River (right tributary of Naryn), literally breaks the crest to create a clear separation from the Western Tien-Shan. The range present on its greatest length, a high-contrast landscape with north consisting in high grassy flat lands, ending with short U-shaped valleys with some glaciers, well provided above. The north elevation is between 3000 and 4000. And on the southern slopes, steep reliefs, driest, between 1000 m and 4000 m.

This is the most western mountains of Inner Tien-Shan, this is why its climate is therefore relatively similar and comparably wet of North Tien-Shan neighbouring ranges (Ala-Too Talas, Kyrgyz Ala-Too). The mountain is composed mainly by landscapes of high mountain meadows, essentially dedicated to breeding, and high rocky flatlands. The jaïloos of the Suusamyr valley are famous throughout the country for the delicious Koumiss (fermented mare's milk) that is produced there.

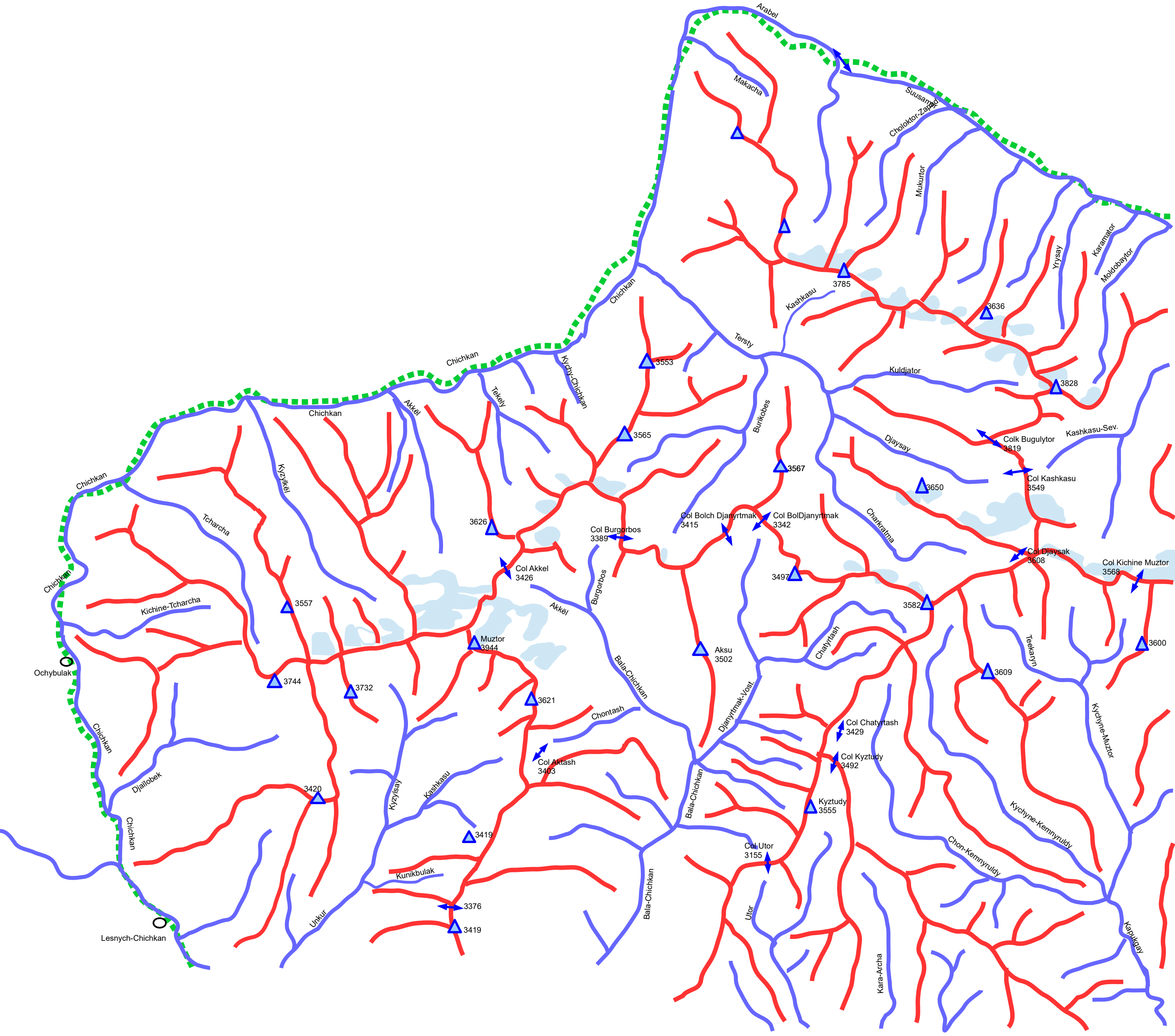
The range is more suitable to the practice of hiking, certainly for his apical crossing. The course is particularly easy for its good bivouac site, searching the nearby heights of the few glaciers that gives clear water, further from the breeding areas. Like the Kyrgyz Ala-Too rains are not uncommon in summer and even snow above 3200 m. The streams are present everywhere, it is no coincidence that this is an excellent summer pastures!

In mountaineering terms, we do not really have much information on the range, however, the winter activity ski touring is being developed in the sector, thanks to good snow and great ease of access.

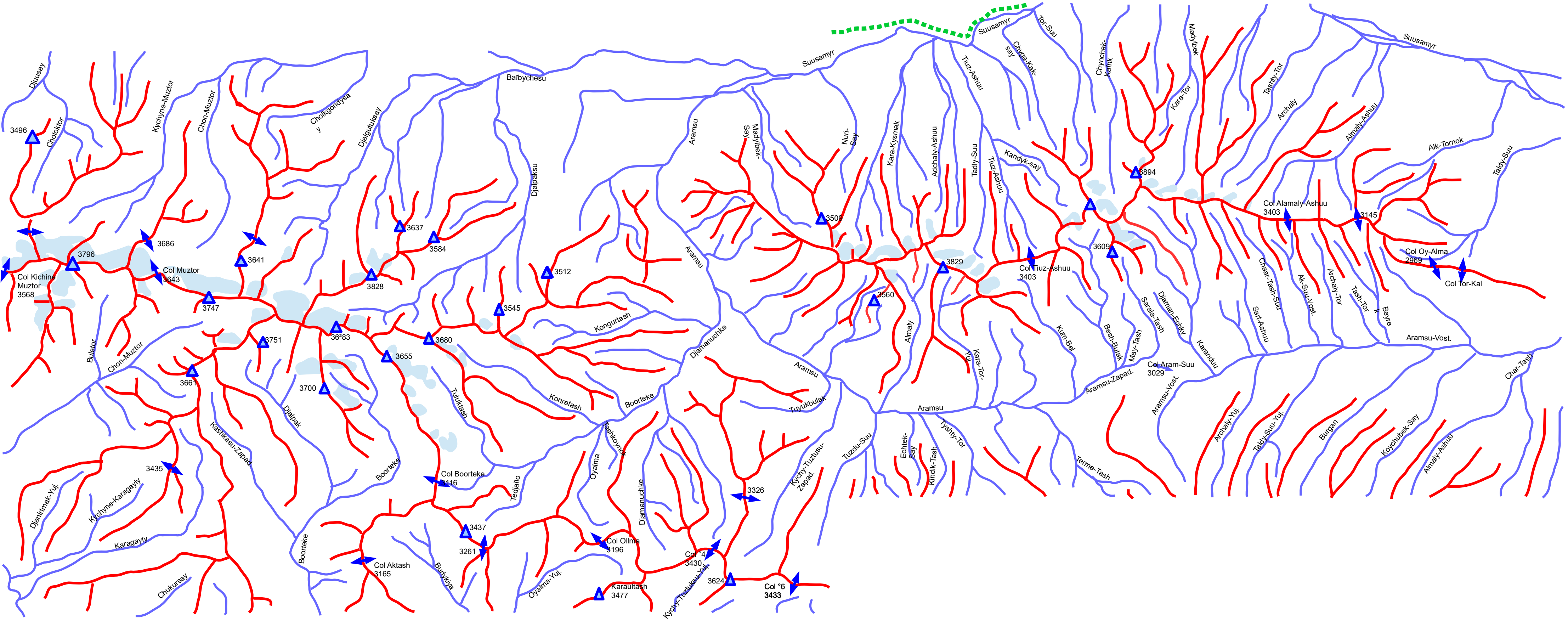
Access to the mountain

The Suusamyr-Too range, although not being very popular in attendance, is perhaps paradoxically the most easily accessible range. Indeed the busiest road of Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek-Osh, passes in tits foothills of the Alabel pass (3169 m). It is an ideal starting point for a hike, with just a handful of hours to fully enter into the range, with a low height difference of only 600 m. Access to the south side is made more difficult by a particularly rudged terrain recalling what one finds in range near Western Tien-Shan. The city of Toluk accessible from Toktogul is one of the starting point on the south side. Nearby, the Tor-Djailoo pass (2465 m) is located close to the south of the Peak 4048 m, the highest point Suusamyr-Too.

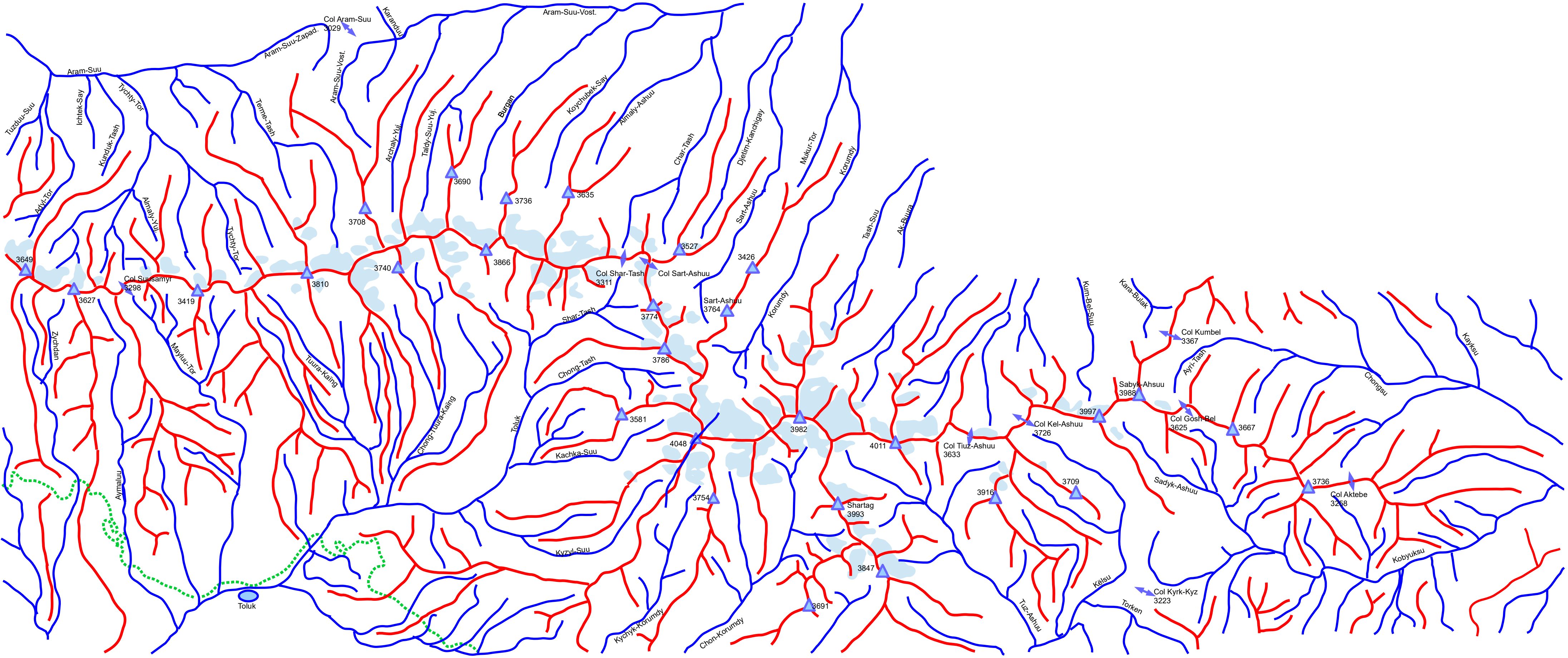
Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-62 (Suusamyr-Too-Too and Talas Ala) k43-63 (Suusamyr-Too, aLabel pass) k43-64 (Valley Suusamyr) k43-64 (Eastern Suusamyr-Too and Canyon Kambaratinskoye); 1/200 000th: k43-14 (Suusamyr Valley, North Slope), k43-20 (South side, Toluk, Tor-Djailoo pass).


Arabel
Makacha
Suusamyr
Choloktor-Zapad
Mukurtor
Yrysay
Karamator
Moldobaytor
3785
Kashkasu
3636
Chichkan
Tersty
Kuldjator
3828
3553
Chichkan
Kychy-Chichkan
Tekely
Akkél
Chichkan
Burikobes
Colk Bugulytor
3819
Kashkasu-Sev.
3565
Djaysay
Col Kashkasu
3549
Chichkan
Kyzylkél
3567
3650
Tcharcha
3626
Col Burgorbos
3389
Col Bolch Djanyrtmak
3415
Col BolDjanyrtmak
3342
Charkratma
Col Djaysak
3608
Col Kichine Muztor
3568
Col Akkel
3426
3497
Chichkan
Burgorbos
Akkél
3582
Kichine-Tcharcha
3557
Chatyrtash
Muztor
3944
Aksu
3502
Teekaryn
3600
Ochybulak
3744
3732
Bala-Chichkan
3609
3621
Chontash
Djanyrtmak-Vost.
Col Chatyrtash
3429
Kychyne-Muztor
Chichkan
Col Aktash
3403
Col Kyztudy
3492
Djailobek
Kyzylsay
Kashkasu
3420
Bala-Chichkan
Kyztudy
3555
Kychyne-Kemnyruldy
Chichkan
3419
Col Utor
3155
Chon-Kemnyruldy
Kunikbulak
Bala-Chichkan
3376
Ulor
Kapukay
Unkur
3419
Lesnych-Chichkan
Kara-Archa

Orographic scheme of Suusamyr-Too range, Western part


Djuusay
3496
Cholokto
Kychyne-Muztor
Chon-Muztor
Cholkgondysay
Djalgutuksay
Baibychesu
Suusamyr
Suusamyr
Tor-Suu
Chyga-Kak-say
Chynchak-Kanik
Madybek
Kara-Tor
Tashtyly-Tor
Archaly
Almaly-Ashuu
Suusamyr
Alk-Tornok
Taldy-Suu
Aramsu
Madybek-Say
Nuri-Say
Tiuz-Ashuu
Kara-Kysmak
Adchaly-Ashuu
Tadly-Suu
Tiuz-Ashuu
Kandyk-say
3894
Djalpaksu
3686
3796
Col Kichine Muztor 3568
Col Muztor 3643
3641
3747
3637
3584
3828
3512
3509
3829
Col Tiuz-Ashuu 3403
3609
Col Alamaly-Ashuu 3403
3145
Col Oy-Alma 2969
Col Tor-Kal
3751
3683
3680
3545
3655
Kongurtash
Aramsu
3560
Almaly
Kara-Tor-Yuj.
Kum-Bel
Besh-Bulak
Saralа-Tash
Djaman-Echky
May-Tash
Karanduu
Sart-Ashuu
Chaar-Tash-Suu
Ak-Suu-Vost.
Archaly-Tor
Tash-Tor
Beyre
Aramsu-Vost.
Buletor
Chon-Muztor
3661
3700
Djalpak
Kashkasu-Zapad.
Tuluktash
Konretash
Boorteke
Djamanuchke
Aramsu
Tuyukbulak
Aramsu-Zapad.
Col Aram-Suu 3029
Aramsu-Vost.
Aramsu
Char-Tash
Tyshty-Tor
Tuzdu-Suu
Echtek-Say
Kindik-Tash
Terme-Tash
Archaly-Yuj.
Taldy-Suu-Yuj.
Burgan
Koychubek-Say
Almaly-Ashuu
3435
Djanirtmak-Yuj.
Kychyne-Karagayly
Karagayly
Chukursay
Boorteke
Col Boorteke 3416
Tedjailo
Teshkoynok
Oyalma
Djamanuchke
Kychy-Tuztusu-Zapad.
3326
3437
3261
Col Aktash 3165
Boorteke
Burtykiya
Col Ollma 3196
Oyalma-Yuj.
Karaultash 3477
Col 4 3430
Kychy-Tuztusu-Yuj.
3624
Col °6 3433

Orographic scheme of Suusamyr-Too range, Central part


Col Aram-Suu
3029
Karandu
Aram-Suu-Vost.
Aram-Suu-Zapad.
Aram-Suu
Aram-Suu-Vost.
Tuzduu-Suu
Ichtek-Say
Tychty-Tor
Kunduk-Tash
Terme-Tash
Archaly-Yuij
Taldy-Suu-Yuj.
Burgan
Koychubek-Say
Almaly-Ashuu
Char-Tash
Djetim-Kanchigay
Mukur-Tor
Korumdy
Adyl-Tor
Almaly-Yuij
Tychty-Tor
3690
3736
3635
3708
Sart-Ashuu
Tash-Suu
Ak-Buura
3649
3627
Col Suusamyr
3298
3419
3810
3740
3866
3527
Col Shar-Tash
3311
Col Sart-Ashuu
3426
Sart-Ashuu
3764
3774
Korumdy
Kum-Bel-Suu
Kara-Bulak
Col Kumbel
3367
Zychdan
Mayluu-Tor
Tuura-Kaing
Shar-Tash
3786
Chong-Tash
Ayri-Tash
Kayksu
Sabyk-Ahsuu
3988
Chongsu
3997
Col Kel-Ashuu
3726
Col Gosh-Bel
3625
3667
Chong-Tuura-Kaing
Toluk
3581
4048
3982
4011
Col Tiuz-Ashuu
3633
Kachka-Suu
Aymaluu
3709
3916
Sadyk-Ashuu
3736
Col Aktebe
3268
3754
Shartag
3993
Kyzyl-Suu
3847
Kobyuksu
Kelsu
Col Kyrk-Kyz
3223
Toluk
Kychyk-Korumdy
Chon-Korumdy
3691
Tuz-Ashuu
Torken

Orographic scheme of Suusamyr-Too range, Eastern part

A.6.26) Torugart range (figures 21, 22 and 23, photos 57-58)

The range is located to the west of Torugart pass over which the international highway to China goes. It stretches for almost 50 km west along the Arpa river to the Ferganskiy ridge. 30 km of the eastern part of the range stretch along the Kyrgyz-Chinese border. The region is administrated by Atbashinskiy raion of the Naryn oblast. Easy accessibility is conditioned by the highway Naryn-Torugart pass. Nevertheless off-road vehicles are necessary to get into the canyons. First exploration of the region was done by Pat Littlejohn expedition in 2006. Then 6 first ascents were done in the area of the Mustyr river valley. Later two more expeditions added eight more first ascents. There are still several unexplored canyons to the west of the Mustyr gorge with more than 40 peaks over 4,000m high among which 5 peaks are over 5,000m.

Routes are mostly combined and on ice and snow. Numerous summer shepherd camps in the lower canyons can be the sources to replenish dairy products and meat stock and to hire horses as well.

The region is in the border area and special permit is required.

Cartography. Maps 1/100,000 k43-126, k43-127.

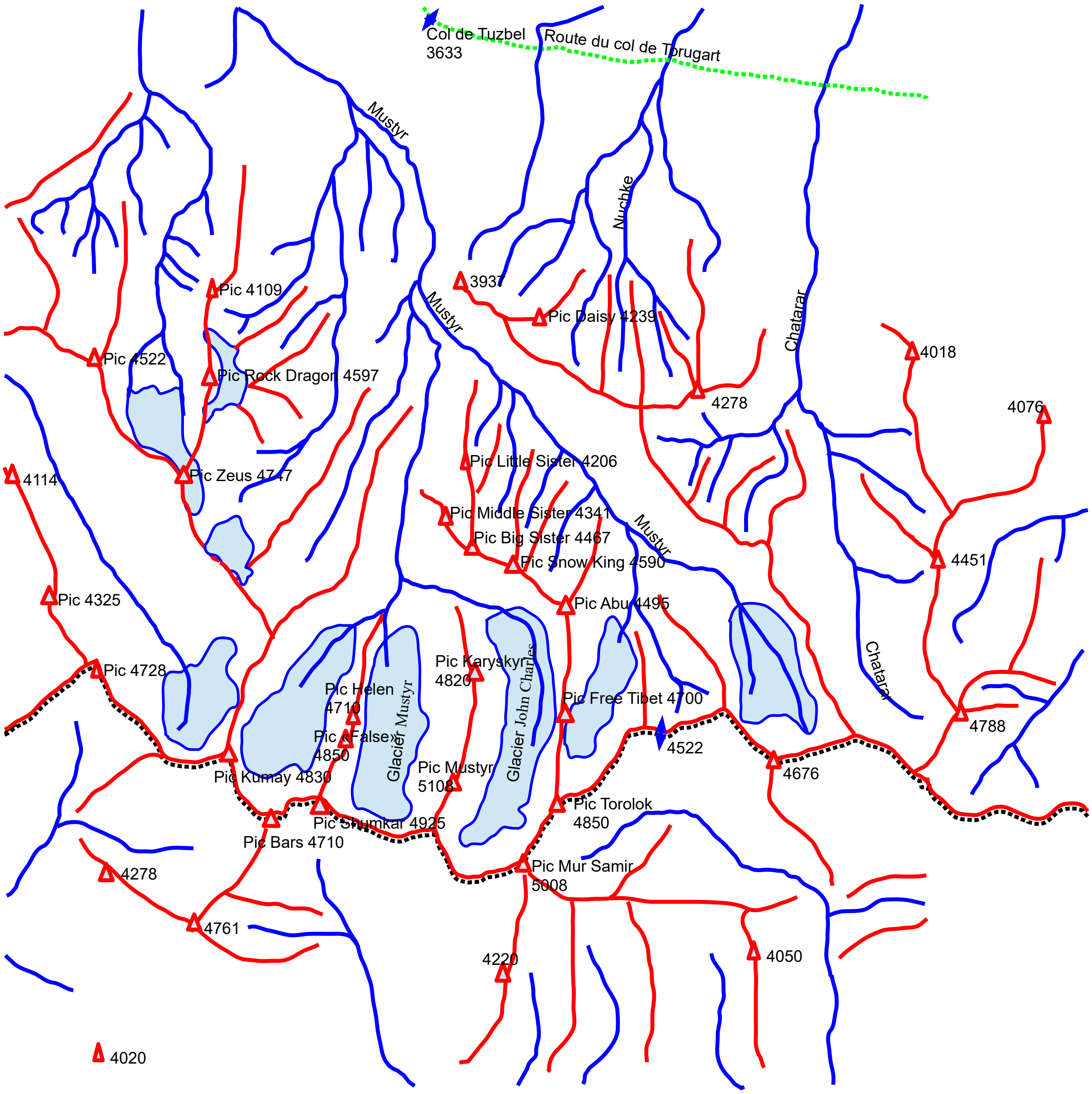

Col de Tuzbel
3633
Route du col de Torugart
Mustyr
Nuchke
Pic 4109
3937
Pic Daisy 4239
Mustyr
Chatarar
4018
Pic 4522
Pic Rock Dragon 4597
4278
4076
Pic Little Sister 4206
Pic Zeus 4747
4114
Pic Middle Sister 4341
Mustyr
Pic Big Sister 4467
Pic Snow King 4590
4451
Pic 4325
Pic Abu 4495
Chatarar
Pic Karyskyr
4820
Glacier John Charles
Pic 4728
Pic Helen
4710
Glacier Mustyr
Pic Free Tibet 4700
Pic «False»
4850
4788
4522
Pic Kumay 4830
Pic Mustyr
5108
4676
Pic Torolok
4850
Pic Shumkar 4925
Pic Bars 4710
Pic Mur Samir
5008
4278
4761
4220
4050
4020

figure 21. Orographic scheme of Torugart range, central part

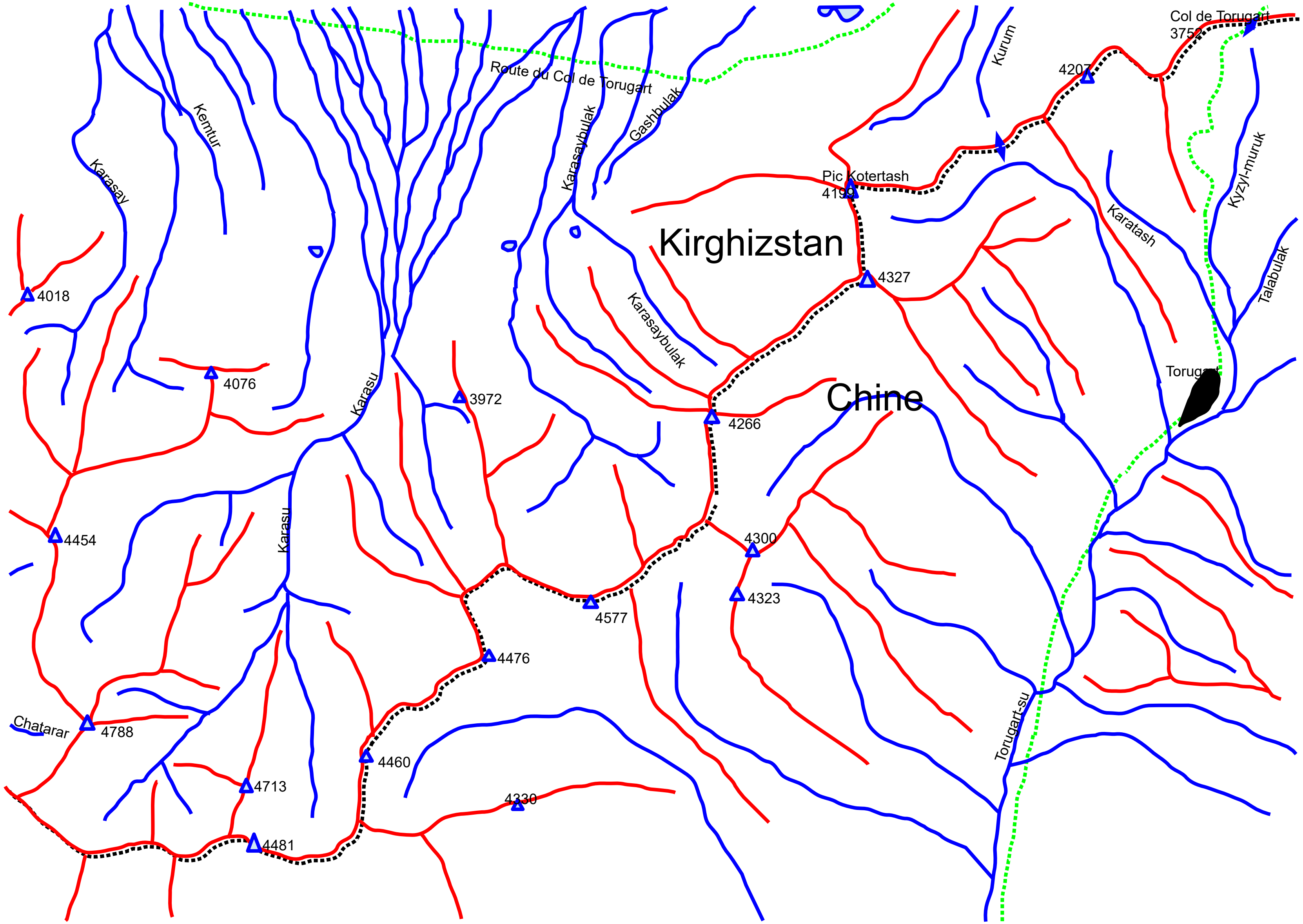

Route du Col de Torugart
Col de Torugart
3752
Kurum
4207
Pic Kotertash
4199
Karasay
Kemtur
Karasaybulak
Gashbulak
Kirghizstan
Karatash
Kyzyl-muruk
Talabulak
4018
4076
4327
Karasaybulak
Torugart
Karasu
3972
Chine
4266
4454
Karasu
4300
4577
4323
4476
Chatarar
4788
Torugart-su
4460
4713
4330
4481

figure 22. Orographic scheme of Torugart range, Torugart pass area

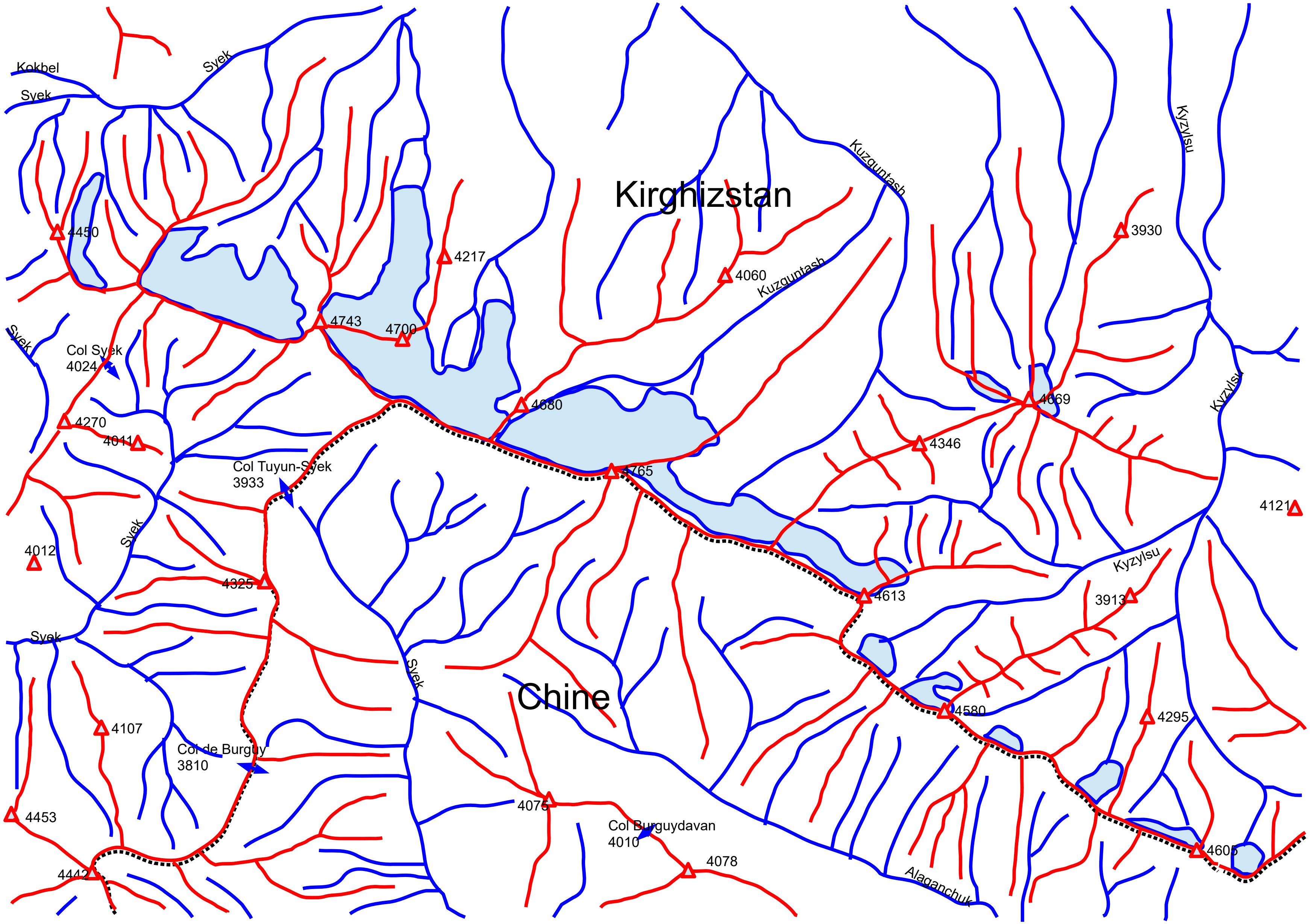

Kokbel
Syek
Syek
4450
4217
4743
4700
Kirghizstan
4060
Kuzguntash
Kuzguntash
3930
Kyzylsu
Syek
Col Syek
4024
4270
4011
4680
4669
Kyzylsu
4346
Col Tuyun-Syek
3933
4765
4121
Syek
4012
Kyzylsu
4325
4613
3913
Syek
Syek
Chine
4580
4295
4107
Col de Burguy
3810
4453
4075
Col Burguydavan
4010
4078
4605
4442
Alaganchuk

figure 23. Orographic scheme of Torugart range, area closed to Ferghana picture 57. The Torugart-Too canyon, view from the BC, Torugart-Too range

picture 58. Unnamed “five thousanders” of the Torugart-Too range.

A.7. Western Tien-Shan (from the book of V.N. Popov, Original title Попов В.Н. ЗАПАДНЫЙ ТЯНЬ-ШАНЬ Москва, «Физкультура и спорт», 1978)

A.7.1.General description of the Western region of Tien-Shan Mountains

Maps 50 000 th: k42-057-4, k42-057-3 to 4, and k42-069-2 4 k42-057-4, k42-070-1 to 3 k42-071-1 to 4; 100,000 th: k42-058 to k42-060, k42-069 to k42-072, k42-080 to k42-084, k42-093 to k42-095, k42-105 to k42-107; 200,000 th: k42-17,18,22,23,24,29; 500 000th: k42-2 and k42-4; 1000 000th: k42

The Western Tien-Shan Mountains includes sub-ranges distributed on the present territory of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. These are the main sub-chains of Talas Ala-Too, Pskem, Sandalash, Maydantal, Chatkal and Ugam. In turn, the Chatkal range separates into two groups: Kuramin and Kumbel-Sargardon, and Pskem range separates into the Koksu group and from the group of Ugam, the mountains of Korzhantau.

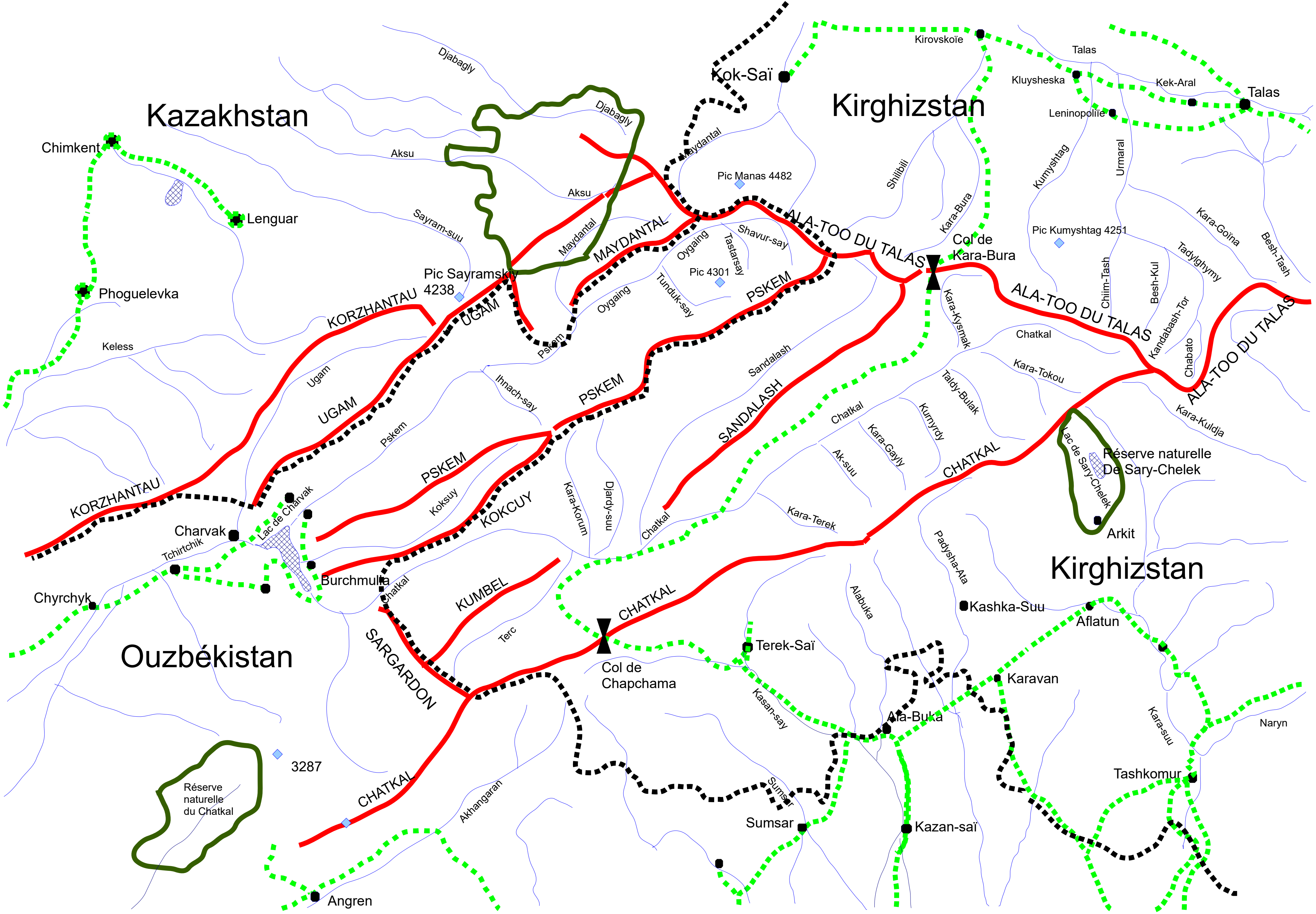
Orographic scheme of Talas Ala-Too range mainly separates the basins of two major rivers: the Talas on north and Chirchik to the southwest. It is a narrow rocky ridge with a latitudinal extension. From the south eastern slopes of the Talas Mountains, a powerful range of spurs is separated by the the south-west. It is the Chatkal. This last subchain is equally the separation of Chirchik River basin, and the basin under the same name, the Chatkal River. This river originates in the southeast of the Chatkal mountains slopes. At the southwestern edge of the Chatkal ridge stands the high plateau of Angren or Ahangaran, also dominated south by the crest of Kuramin (border of Tajikistan). The orientation of the latter is similar to the southwestern part of the range of Chatkal.

From the Talas Ala-Too and almost parallel to the range of Chatkal, is also expanding to the southwest several mountains in order: the mountains of Sandalash, and Maydantal and the peaks of Pskem and Ugam. Their slopes have many small rivers that supply water to the main artery of the Chatkal river, and other main rivers of the WesternTien-Shan like Pskem River (both tributaries of Chirchik).

The Chatkal, is the largest tributary of the River Chirchik, it starts exactly at the junction of the Talas Ala-Too (Mountains) and the Chatkal range, through the ancient glacial valley of the upper reaches of Kara Kuldja. Taking further right downstream like Sandalash, the wide waters of the river expands to flow, and then left, the river receives the tributary river Ters and then passes through a deep gorge to the village of Burchmulla where it pours its waters into the Charvak reservoir that gives rise to Chirchik river.

The second component of the Chirchik River is the Pskem. It begins in the glaciers and eternal snows of the Talas Ala-Too. In its origins its water comes from the two rivers, Maydantal and Oygaing. After their merger, Pskem flows through a narrow gorge through many rapids. The Charvak reservoir thus merges the Chatkal and Pskem to form the Chirchik an impetuous tributary of the Syr Darya (the main river in Central Asia of Uzbekistan, formerly upstream Naryn river in Kyrgyzstan and Ferghana basin).

The Ugam river is strictly the largest tributary of the River Chirchik (once took its name downstream of Charvak reservoir). The Ugam flows just below Lake Charvak. The greater part of its course is located in Kazakhstan. Its mouth is located in Uzbekistan. Powered by various sources and streams, the Ugam descent between high slopes between the Ugam and Korzhantau.


Kazakhstan
Kirghizstan
Kirghizstan
Ouzbékistan
Chimkent
Lenguar
Phoguelevka
Keless
Aksu
Aksu
Djabagly
Djabagly
Sayram-suu
Pic Sayramsky 4238
KORZHANTAU
KORZHANTAU
UGAM
UGAM
Ugam
Maydantal
MAYDANTAL
Maydantal
Kok-Saï
Pic Manas 4482
Oygaing
Oygaing
Shavur-say
Tastarsay
Pic 4301
Tunduk-say
Pskem
PSKEM
PSKEM
PSKEM
Pskem
Ihnach-say
ALA-TOO DU TALAS
ALA-TOO DU TALAS
ALA-TOO DU TALAS
Col de Kara-Bura
Kara-Bura
Shilibili
Kirovskoïe
Talas
Talas
Kluysheska
Kek-Aral
Leninopolie
Kumyshtag
Urmaral
Pic Kumyshtag 4251
Kara-Goïna
Besh-Tash
Tadylghymy
Chim-Tash
Besh-Kul
Kandabash-Tor
Chabato
Kara-Kysmak
Chatkal
Kara-Tokou
Taldy-Bulak
Kurnyrdy
Kara-Kuldja
Sandalash
SANDALASH
Chatkal
Kara-Gayly
Ak-suu
CHATKAL
Lac de Sary-Chelek
Réserve naturelle De Sary-Chelek
Arkit
Kara-Terek
Padysha-Ata
Alabuka
Kashka-Suu
Aflatun
Kara-Korum
Djardy-suu
Chatkal
KOKCUY
Koksuy
Lac de Charvak
Charvak
Tchirtchik
Chyrchyk
Burchmulla
Chatkal
KUMBEL
Terc
SARGARDON
CHATKAL
Col de Chapchama
Terek-Saï
Kasan-say
Ala-Buka
Karavan
Kara-suu
Naryn
Tashkomur
Sumsar
Sumsar
Kazan-saï
3287
Réserve naturelle du Chatkal
CHATKAL
Akhangaran
Angren

Orographic scheme of Western Tien-Shan

The River Ahangaran (Angren) is also formed in the rivers that begin on the southern side of the range of Chatkal. Its middle and upper reaches form incisions and deep canyons through the Angren plateau. Here the river has a number of right bank tributaries, also in their upper part formed narrow and deep canyons. Upstream of torrents have a more peaceful way, before emptying into the Ahangaran mostly in impressive waterfalls.

On the southeast slopes of the Chatkal ridge, are the sources of many rivers that descend in the Ferghana Valley. These rivers do not often reach the Syr Darya, as they are mainly used for irrigation. The most important of these rivers are Kara-suu, Koson and Gava. The Western Tien-Shan is rich in lakes. The best known of these is Lake Sary-Chelek. Often formed by rock obstructions in the valley, for instance of moraine origin, the lakes are located in the valleys of the major tributaries rivers in the region. The various terrain of western Tien-Shan has generated strong differences in climate, depending on elevation, topography and exposure (south or north). In the Talas Valley climate is cool and dry. That of Pskem Valley is soft and warm, with plenty of rainfall events: the mountains are protected from the cold north winds, but do not prevent the passage of warm, moist air from the west. The climate of the Chatkal Valley is more severe, while the southeast slopes of the Chatkal ridge, facing the Ferghana Valley, grow in abundance of sunflowers, tobacco, corn and fruit trees. The hottest month in western Tien-Shan is July. The temperature can often reach 40°C, while the monthly average temperature is only 20°C. The absolute minimum reaches -30°C in winter, and even in some places there was -40°C. The season out of the winter frost in most of the Western Tien-Shan lasts less than 200 days. Precipitation in winter are greater than 200 mm and the level can reach 1200 mm in the Pskem range. In spring rainfall (up to 65 mm) come especially in March and April, and there is the smallest amount in July. The ground is covered with snow from November to March.

The amount of water in rivers depends on the thickness of the snow cover in the valleys. Indeed the latter rivers are a drain on the valley floor. Very often, some of these rivers are only a temporary evacuation during snowmelt and rain, and dry in other periods.

Already the first explorers of the mountains of western Tien-Shan had noticed a contrast in vertical distribution of plant and animal life, as in any mountain area, but here more pronounced. In the foothills and middle parts of the Talas valley, there is a steppe zone, and at least in its upper part an altitude steppe. On the slopes, this steppe of Talas Ala-Too is composed of grasslands dotted with shrubs such as juniper. Among the fauna found Siberian ibex, marmots, ptarmigan, sheep (Argali sheep or Marco Polo) and Ular. In the southeast slopes of the range Chatkal one first found herbaceous steppe and alpine and subalpine meadows are used for grazing (jailoo). Under the altitude steppe and alpine meadows, there are upstairs deciduous trees, including wild walnut trees scattered in the various river valleys and mountainsides.

We also find in the Chatkal forests of walnut also wild apple trees, plum trees, Tien-Shan spruce, fir and juniper. The fauna of mountain forests is very rich. There are wild boars, porcupines, bears, weasels, marmots, forest dormice and thousands of birds.

In bogs and mud flats of Chatkal among its many tributaries there are groves of birch, poplar, willow thickets of wild rose, honeysuckle, buckthorn and black currant. In the valleys there are fescue for forage (grass hay) and in the plains and low-lying plateaus, sagebrush steppe (a variety of absinthe). The steppes of the north side consists of timothy (used for fodder), creeping couch grass, wild prangosa (variety of amarinthe also present in the Alps) present under the sub-alpine and alpine meadows. The Chatkal Valley is a vast pastoral area of great economic importance. It is vital for the development of livestock in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. In the mountainous region of the Akhangaran Valley, mid-altitude forests have many species of trees such as maple, hawthorn, and the side valleys of apple, plum and cherry plum rowan. Scientists believe that the valley from the slopes of the mountain were once entirely covered with woody vegetation, which gradually disappeared due to human exploitation. Now the felling of trees and shrubs is totally prohibited.

In intra-mountain valleys of Chatkal rivers, and Koksu Pskem, we often encounter dense groves of tala, birch, poplar, Tamaris shrubs, honeysuckle, wild roses, buckthorn, wild vines and blackcurrants. Downstream, at the confluence of Chatkal and Pskem, there grows a lot of fruit trees: apple, apricot, plum, pear. The mountain slopes are covered with groves of walnut, maple and poplar.

On the western territory of Tien-Shan, three major nature reserves have been established: the Aksu-Dzhabagly, the Sary-Chelek and Chatkal reserve.

The isolation of western Tien-Shan, especially on the Upper Chirchik, was still a reality there a century ago. We had very little information about the area. The area, located off of the great silk-road caravan routes, was still regarded as “the middle of nowhere”, both by the conquerors and by travelers. So it is no surprise that there is little reference to the Western Tien-Shan by ancient geographers, who however have written much on the cities of the Ferghana region and the Talas Valley.

As it was able to establish the main occupation of the ancient inhabitants of western Tien-Shan was hunting. In particular, this has been confirmed by numerous rock paintings of ancient Central Asia, often representing various animals. There are these archaeological evidence of ancient human activities on the territory of Aksu-Djabagly and Chatkal reserve, near the village of Hodjikent on the slopes of the peak of the Great Chimgan.

The first major human colonies were on the foothills of the mountain. Thus, in ancient times, there was the great city of Isfidzhab and another town called Sayram (district of Chimkent). One could also unearth ancient mining in the valleys of the Akhangaran that archaeologists date from the tenth to twelfth centuries. Around the same time, a large city was developed in the Talas Valley, whose ruins are still visible. A remarkable architectural monument of the thirteenth century, the mausoleum of Shakh-Fazil is located in Kasan-say valley.

The scientific study of mountains to the west of the Tien-Shan began in the late nineteenth century, after the annexation of Turkestan to the Russian Empire. Russian scientist who first entered the upper Chatkal, is a zoologist and zoo-geographer N.A. Severtsov. In 1866 he crossed the Talas Ala-Too through the pass Kara-Bura and explored the upper part of the Chatkal Valley. In 1874, geologist and geographer I.V. Mushketov made a journey through Central Asia, during which he crossed the Korzhantau mountains and the valleys of Chatkal and Pskem, finally back in the city of Talas. During this journey he explored the southern slopes of the range of Chatkal and the heights of the plateau of Angren. Five years later, another geologist, D.L. Ivanov discovered glaciers in Pskem Valley.

Among the western Tien-Shan explorers before the October Revolution, it is also mentioned B.A. Fedchenko, V.I. Lipskogo and O.A. Shkapskogo. But at that time the trips and expeditions to the west of the Tien-Shan, as in other mountainous regions of Central Asia were not moved by the personal tastes and desires, but by the will of the Russian Empire to establish its territorial domination by the knowledge of the country. Most studies in these scientific exploration expeditions were short and fleeting, too often limited to superficial observations.

After the October Revolution, scientific studies in western Tien-Shan has completely changed. In 1920, State University of Turkestan (modern Tashkent) makes a major task of scientific study of the area. From the early years of the Soviet power began a systematic census in the mountains by botanists, zoologists, geologists and hydrologists. At that time, for example, have been put in place special expeditions on the territory of Aksu-Djabagly and Sary-Chelek to assess natural resources, mineral and hydrological in the region, especially on the southern slopes of the mountains Chatkal in the upstream valleys of Chirchik, the Akhangaran and the foothills of the Talas Ala-Too.

The mountains of western Tien-Shan are also socio-economic human territories. On the slopes is practiced for centuries sheep grazing, and in the alluvial plains thousands of varieties are grown, including fruit crops. The development of numerous agricultural facilities was a reality during the Soviet era. In the medical field also was built health care facilities to enjoy the thermal properties of some of its sources. In the field of energy a comprehensive plan of hydraulic stations, artificial lakes was built. For example, the reservoir Charvak and Kosonsoy are still the testimony of that past energy development. Agricultural researchers were attracted by the climate and fertile alluvial soil, in places like a cornucopia. Then the tourists came to find rest in the mountains, far from the bustle of cities, as the hectic activity of Tashkent. Over time, mountain hikers appeared and recreational and sports attendance took off in the late 1950s. Particulary in the vicinity of Chimgan in Uzbekistan was created the first camping. In the 70s, several campgrounds existed: to the "South" (Tashkent region), to "Koksarai" (Namangan), to "Chimgan" and "Yangyabad" (Tashkent region).

The Western Tien-Shan is located on the present territory of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, and has multiple and practicles paths and road access to get through. The only current obstacle since the independence of the former republics of Central Asia is to obtain a visa to access easily cross borders, the most convenient being the one with multiple entries in the territory of each country. For this, legislation evolves it is better to learn from embassy services of each of these countries. Some roads, tracks and trails start from the northern side valleys of Talas Ala-Too. For example, by the road along the Kara-Bura river that runs through the pass of the same name and leads to the Chatkal Valley, one reaches many trailheads to the various valleys of tributaries. Similar road leads from the Chatkal valley to the Ferghana Valley by the pass of Chapchama, also with many trails to the tributaries of the river Kasan-say. The road and the valleys of the various tributaries of the Kazan-say, all descend in the Ferghana Valley.

A good road runs through the valley of Angren rising Kamchik Pass to also go down in the Ferghana Valley. There are several entries in the Forest Nature Reserve of Chatkal mountains, especially near the confluence of Pskem and Chatkal and since on the road to Kara-Bura pass. From there, dirt roads leading to the central part of Pskem and Chatkal valleys.

The Ugam is accessible to vehicles across the river of the same name in the valley to its middle reaches, where through the mountains at the foot of the mountains Korzhantau goes the dirt track of Kirkkiz pass. There are also roads leading to the area of the Aksu-Djabagly nature reserve from the most western part of the Talas Ala-Too. These roads are frequently used to transport supplies either by shepherds or by technical personnel such as geologists and meteorologists. With the prior approval of the drivers it is always possible to get to the desired location.

A.7.2. The Talas Ala-Too Range

Cartography: maps 50 000th: K42-070-1 to 3 K42-071-1 to 4; 100 000th: K42-058 Talas valley, K42-059, K42-060, main ridge K42-061, K42-062, K42-070, K42-071, K42-072; 200 000th: K42-17, K42-18, K43-13

The basin of the Talas river is bounded to the north by the ridges of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too forming border with Kazakhstan and south by those of the Talas Ala-Too. The river is formed by the merger of Uch-Koshoy and Karakol rivers. From this confluence, the Talas River stretches almost over 100 km, it has given its name to the Talas city established on its left bank. Talas valley sometimes reaches 15 km wide. All along the valley, the river receives the important flow of left tributaries, as Kolba, Besh-Tash, Urmaral, Kumyshtag and Kara-Bura.

Inter-mountain basins in the mountains of Talas are often narrow, with tormented relief forming on the range some disconnected islands. The fragmentation of the range is particularly visible where the course of the river turns to the north in the valley, along the western end of the range of the Kyrgyz Ala-Too. The Talas Ala-Too then lost altitude in the vast plains of Kazakhstan before reaching the Chuy River, which is one of its tributaries.

At the western end of the range (Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan border) three rivers take their sources on the northern slope of the Talas Ala-Too, Ak-say, the Kok-say and Kourkoureu (sometimes called Kyurkyure-suu), all are right tributaries of the river Teruc, which then takes the name of Assa (from the outskirts of the city of Djambul).

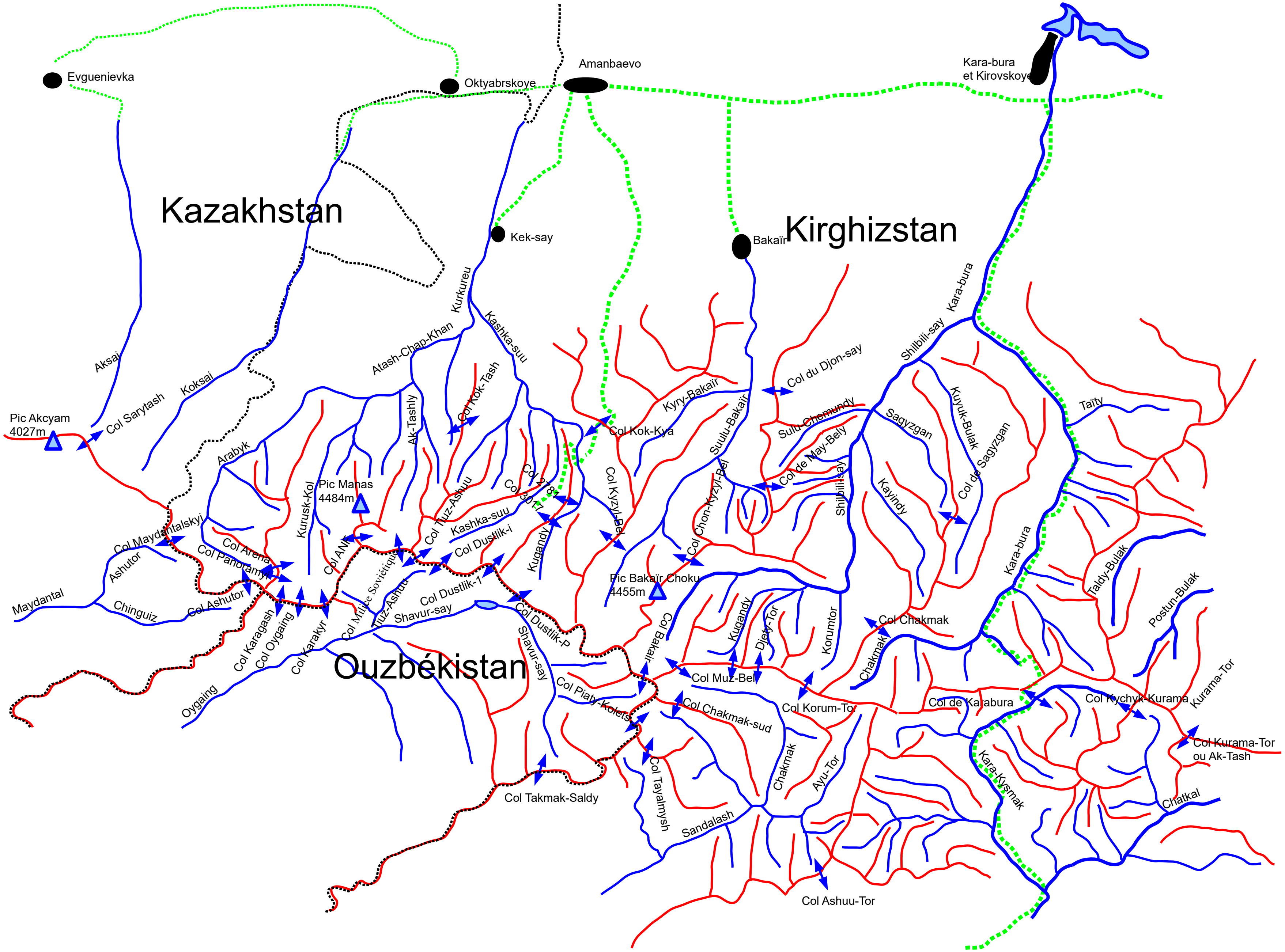
The Talas Ala-Too separates Assa and Talas river basins (north) from that of the Chirchik River (south). Its western extreme basins are shared between Assy and Arys rivers. This is the highest crest of the region at the average height of 3700-3800 m. Sometimes it exceeds 4000 m and the highest point is reached at 4482 m on Peak Manas.

The region of Talas Ala-Too takes a typical alpine aspect of stony, narrow and vertical reliefs, jagged peaks, covered with snow and glaciers in places with steep slopes (up to 60° -70°).

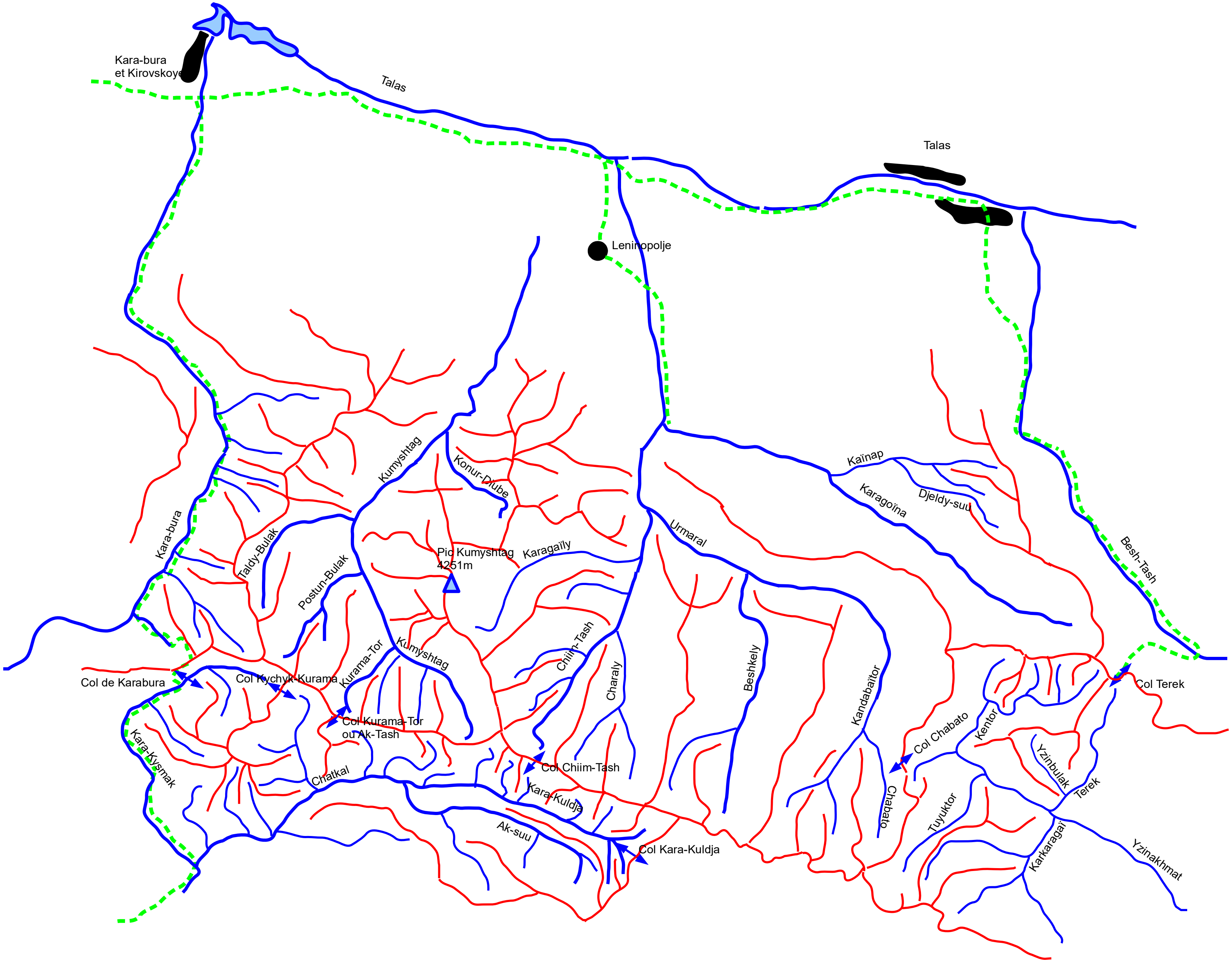
Northern foothills of the mountain ridge that descend into the Talas Valley (usually meridionaly) have at first glance a typical alpine aspect, but approaching the Talas valley they take milder forms with slopes largely grassed, broken by a dense network of short gullies, shallow, but very steep.

The top of the crest of the Talas Ala-Too is characterized by powerful rocky outcrops, often forming extensive scree. Above 3500 m mountain basins and circuses are relatively flat, surrounded by rocky walls, with a background filled with detritus, often large scree. In the high valleys of the north side of the Talas Ala-Too there is most glaciers. It is in this part close to the main peak in the heart of side valleys, that glaciers are well developed.

In the basin of Talas and Assa rivers there are 281 registered glaciers, two thirds of them are of reasonable size, but many others were sometimes of very small dimensions. Only 8 glaciers stretching over a length of more than 3 km and the length of 164 of these glaciers is less than 1 km away.


Evguenievka
Oktyabrskoye
Amanbaevo
Kara-bura
et Kirovskoye
Kazakhstan
Kek-say
Bakaïr
Kirghizstan
Kurkureu
Kashka-suu
Atash-Chap-Khan
Aksaj
Koksai
Col Sarytash
Pic Akcyam
4027m
Col Kok-Tash
Ak-Tashly
Kyry-Bakaïr
Col du Djon-say
Shilbili-say
Kara-bura
Col Kok-Kya
Suulu-Bakaïr
Sulu-Chemundy
Sagyzgan
Kuyuk-Bulak
Taïty
Arabyk
Kurusk-Kol
Pic Manas
4484m
Col 2781
Col 3017
Col Kyzyl-Bel
Col de May-Bely
Shilbilisay
Kayindy
Col de Sagyzgan
Col Chon-Kyzyl-Bel
Col Maydantalskyi
Col Arena
Col Panoramyi
Col ANF
Col Tuz-Ashuu
Kashka-suu
Col Dustlik-i
Kugandy
Kara-bura
Taldy-Bulak
Postun-Bulak
Ashutor
Maydantal
Chinguiz
Col Ashutor
Col Milice Soviétique
Tuz-Ashuu
Col Dustlik-1
Shavur-say
Pic Bakaïr Choku
4455m
Col Bakaïr
Kugandy
Djety-Tor
Korumtor
Col Chakmak
Chakmak
Col Karagash
Col Oygaing
Col Karakyr
Ouzbékistan
Col Dustlik-P
Shavur-say
Oygaing
Col Piaty-Kolets
Col Muz-Bel
Col Korum-Tor
Col de Karabura
Col Kychyk-Kurama
Kurama-Tor
Col Chakmak-sud
Col Kurama-Tor
ou Ak-Tash
Col Tayalmysh
Chakmak
Ayu-Tor
Kara-Kysmak
Chatkal
Col Takmak-Saldy
Sandalash
Col Ashuu-Tor

Orographic scheme of Talas Ala-Too - part 1


Kara-bura
et Kirovskoye
Talas
Talas
Leninopolje
Kumyshtag
Konur-Djube
Kaïnap
Karagoïna
Djeldy-suu
Kara-bura
Taldy-Bulak
Urmaral
Pic Kumyshtag
4251m
Karagaïly
Postun-Bulak
Besh-Tash
Chiim-Tash
Kurama-Tor
Kumyshtag
Charaly
Beshkely
Kandabaitor
Col de Karabura
Col Kychyk-Kurama
Col Terek
Col Kurama-Tor
ou Ak-Tash
Col Chabato
Kentor
Kara-Kysmak
Yzinbulak
Chatkal
Col Chiim-Tash
Terek
Kara-Kuldja
Chabato
Tuyuktor
Ak-suu
Karkaragaï
Col Kara-Kuldja
Yzinakhmat

Orographic scheme of Talas Ala-Too - part 2

Orographic scheme of Talas Ala-Too - part 2

The first route we describe is through valleys and passes of the western edge of the Talas Ala-Too from the village of Leninopolye, from which flows the river Urmaral. Its source is located in the eastern part of this range border.

The dirt road from Leninpolye goes south in the mountains for over 30 km, through a forest village at the confluence of the Urmaral and Karagoina (right tributary) and the dirt road ends 5-6 km above in the Urmaral Valley. Here begins the path, climbing the rocks on the left bank, and through many deep ravines. Then you have to take a steep escarpment to the winding mouth of the river Chiimtash, a left tributary of the River Urmaral. At the confluence is a picturesque birch grove, where you can stop for a break.

The confluence of Urmaral and Chiim-Tash is located about 16 km from the starting point of the trail. The birch grove at an altitude of about 1770 m forms a thick ribbon. Here are the information on the transition from the upper ridge of the Talas Ala-Too by following the course of the tributary Chiim-Tash.

On the climb, the trail turns to the left (in the direction of the climb, 1800m) to stay in the Chiim-Tash Valley. The valley widens gradually over 15 kilometers as the trail reaches upstream. And a more open area can be seen on the side ridges more lowered, towards Chiim-Tash pass (3575, 1B) yet far enough away (more than 10km).

At the junction of Chiim-Tash headwaters, the trail turns to the southeast, taking the direction of the right bank of torrents of the mountain circus. These rivers descending almost parallel to the main peak of the Talas Ala-Too. the trail reaches a small hill where a lake hase been formed at foothills, on the northern slope. It takes around a lake with a diameter of 30-40 m by often snow-covered slopes, immediately below the cliffs. The trail then climbs a moraine, which clearly winds on the scree towards another peak in the foothills. From there, the path that leads to the pass is well marked, although the pass crossing is not yet visible. At the foot of the pass there are two ways for the ascent. The first by a steep slope directly above the lake and through the circus to the Far East with the passage of an intermediate pass. The second path is longer by nearly 3 km, but it is less dangerous. This is also the one on which peoples, generally shepherds, lead their sheeps onto the Chatkal Valley. Hikers often prefer to go by the shortest route to the Peak Chiim-Tash (3575 m, 1B). On that traditional transhumance trail during all these years, we do not see a single blade of grass, as sheep have gone through.

The pass crossing is arid with particularly steep slopes (up to 60°), often covered with snow. At lower slopes it becomes soften and gradually grassy. On the slopes of the valley, there are no trees and no shrubs, only a few sparse grass and creeping juniper. From Chiim-Tash pass to the river Kara-Kuldja there is about 6 km in distance. Reached the river Kara-Kuldja, the path diverges: either up (east-southeast) leading to the pass of Kara-Kuldja or down (west-northwest) to reach the area of the Chatkal source.

A little further west of Urmaral river, down the river Kumyshtag whose headwaters is almost parallel to the crest of the Talas Ala-Too. A dirt road back to its right tributary, the Konurtiube (Konur-Diube on the map). Directly to the south is the peak Kumysh-Tag (4251m) situated at the foothills of the mountain that separates the basins of Chiim-Tash and Kumyshtag rivers. From the end of the road to the crest of the Talas Ala-Too, it takes between 25-28 km by trail. Over this distance, the Kumyshtag River has three main left tributaries and some other small tributaries. The vegetation of the valley looks like the vegetal covering of the Urmaral Valley. The valley also serves Kumyshtag either wintering grounds either summer pastures in different places and exposures. The best wintering sites is located at the mouth of the Postun-Bulaka river, a left tributary of Kumyshtag. Some houses found there.

About 10 km from the mouth of the Postun-Bulaka following the Kumyshtag Valley, one arrives at the left tributary, the Kurama-Tor River. After 3-4 km, and from the mouth of the Kurama-Tor river, any of the sources Kurama-Tor is accessible by relatively steep rocky scree. The main ridge of the Talas Ala-Too is reached Kurama-Tor pass that toggles in the Kara-Kuldja river valley in the central portion (Chatkal sources).

The path of Kurama-Tor valley thus reached the Ak-Tash pass (3461 m, 1A), also known as pass named Kurama-Tor. From the pass we follow the descent by a steep trail for about 7 km to the Kara-Kuldja Valley.

Then to the west of the Kumyshtag River on the north side of the Talas Ala-Too lies the Kara-Bura River. The watershed area of the Kara-Bura River is about 800 square kilometers, perhaps the greatest of all the rivers in the region. Here the length of the upper ridge of the Kara-Bura to the main ridge of the range of Talas reached more than 40 km, nearly three-fifths of the slopes are located in the direct area of the river, the remainder are distributed on the water bassin of the main left tributary, the River Shilbili.

In the lower Kara-Bura, water is almost entirely used for irrigation through an elevated flow channel. The valley has multiple channels. Near the confluence of the Kara-Bura River and Talas along sections of the highway is Kirovskoye (Kara-Bura), a regional administrative center of Kyrgyzstan (district), which is easily reached by bus from the city of Djambul in Kazakhstan (allow multiple visas inputs). On the road to the mountain, we arrive at a small village at the entrance to the Kara-Bura valley. From the entrance of the valley we still need 8 km to reach the confluence of the Kara-Bura and Shilbili. A dirt road on the latter still climbs 8-9 km, where it ends. As against the road in the Kara-Bura valley continues to the Kara-Bura road pass and down in the Chatkal river valley.

Before reaching its high valley, the Kara-Bura river meets a relatively large tributary, bordering the upper basins of Postunbulak and Kara-Kysmak rivers.

The route of the Kara-Bura pass road runs along the eponymous river and 6-7 km from the road pass diverges from the main valley considerably towards the southeast. From the pass we descend on the slopes of the valley of Kara-Kysmak and the road comes first along the ridge to the east, then abruptly turns south-west (hairpin turn). It is at this juncture that branches off the trail begins and pass Kichik-Kurama-Tor (or small Kurama-Tor, 3100, 1A). The trail runs parallel to the main ridge of Talas and back on the right bank of the Kara-Kysmak to its source. The main road goes down the Kara-Kysmak river crossing several bridges and fords on some tributaries of the Kara-Kysmak. The road descends almost to the mouth of the latter in the Chatkal, here you can find about forty houses and thus housing opportunities.

Between the basins of Kara-Kysmak and Kara-Bura, there are other accessible passes by hiking. When the road to Kara-Bura pass leaves the valley and turned southeast, there is a trail following the main valley to the west. On the left bank of the river (which then takes the name of Chakmak) the trail rises to pass of the same name (3312 m Chakmak, 1A). About 10 km you cross some rights tributaries of Chakmak, which have their sources directly below the crest of the Talas Ala-Too in small glacial basins. It is then possible to follow these valleys up on the ridge where there are a number of passes allowing access to the Kara-kysmak basin.

The Chakmak pass trail follows the left bank of the river Chakmak. It takes 3 km to reach the pass. Then the trail descends to the Shilibili Valley, towards the last (or first depending on the direction of travel) Shilibili right tributary over a relatively short distance (less than 1 km long, so steep) to the glacial moraine bottom Valley.

After discovering the passes of the Talas Ala-Too from the upper Kara-Bura, let us describe the access to the crest of the range from the mouth of the tributary Shilibili (on the map the Shilibili-Say). A dirt road track rises over a distance of 8-9 km along the Shilibili River Valley. At this point is the confluence of several rivers, the trail then leaves place for two trails opposite direction: to the right (in the direction of the rise), the trail leads to the Djon-say pass (which is 2990 m), left the trail leads to the pass Sagyzgan (2944 m), another path to the right leads to the pass Majbely (2672 m). Taking the direction of the last pass, it rose nearly 12 km along the river, sometimes moving from one bank to another.

Back to the main Shilibili valley, further upstream at about 2200 m altitude valley form a right angle to the West: the South develops the valley of the right tributary: the Korumtor. You can follow the rising trail on this tributary. After 3 km, it cross the path down the pass Chakmak and goes further down closer to Shilibili river. From the intersection of runways to Korum-Tor pass the increase is about 10 km, where in much of which there's no real path. One often has has to take the scree along the stream. At source of the torrent Korum-Tor, there are two glaciers. The glacier on the right, stretches over 2 km from the slopes of a summit at 4094 m, the Visayche-Karovyi, until the southeast corner of the circus under the peak 4089 m The waters of the second glacier are drained and collected in a mountain lake, where the water is filtered by the many moraine debris. A track is fitted on the scree on the left bank of the first glacier, often covered with snow hiding the scree. The trail rises between the two glaciers on the foothills to reach the Korumtor pass (3873 m, 1B). The descent leads to the basin of the Sandalash river, the river also called Korumtor (then Chakmak and finally Sandalash).

At 4 km upstream from the mouth of the river Korumtor in the Shilibili Valley, you reach the confluence of three rivers (left the Kugandy amid the Djetytor, right an unnamed torrent). The flow of the three rivers comes from the flanks of a summit at 4089 m. Anonymous river not leads to any known access pass, connecting directly to the Sandalash basin. The river Djetytor comes from two suspended glaciers cirque, part runoff water is collected in two lakes. The glacier on the right is slightly larger in width, and the left in length(1.9 km). The point of the two glaciers center is located above approximately 3800 m.

The largest glacier is the one located centrally in the Kugandy valley (2 km long), it supplies the main flow of the river, also known as Kugandy. His tongue is located at an altitude of 3300 m, lower than that of the remaining glaciers of the sector. To the east, almost the same level, lies the valley of the Glacier Kugandy-Right and west 1.5 km, glacier Kugandy-Left. The runoff of glacial waters are drained and filtered by the moraine and form a north glacial circus lake on the course of the main stream.

Through over passes beyond the glacier sources of Djety-Tor and Kugandy rivers, hikers can descend on the upper reaches of the river Chakmak, a component of the Sandalash river.

Upstream of the confluence of three rivers just mentioned, we can go up further on the bed of Shilibili and reach 10 km after the path up to the mountain pass Chon-Kyzyl-Bel (3588 m, 1A) by its left side. Here the river Shilibili gently turns south to join one of the Talas Ala-Too most glacial parts at the vicinity of the Muzbel pass (4000, 1B). The two large glaciers are called Muzbel-Left and Muzbel-Right. The glacier tongue right down almost 200 m lower than the left. The glacier rises further 50 m higher to almost 4400 m. The right glacier is even greater, with a length of 3.2 km. The upper part of the glacier is located on the main ridge of the Talas Ala-Too and is also the junction point from which born peaks and crest of the Pskem range. Here we come to the border with Uzbekistan, and one can also crossing on other side ridges join either the Chakmak basin (tributary of Sandalash) or the various tributaries of the Shavur-say River (basin of the Oygaing and Pskem).

The Left-Muzbel Glacier is a small hanging valley and provides access to a tributary of Shavur-say. In the main sector trail goes up Shilibili Valley and climbing the moraine right of Muzbel-Right glacier, where the trail sometimes gets lost and taken to the pass Muzbel (about 4000 m, 1B).

To the west of the Kara-Bura river, the first major river is the Bakair (or Suluu-Bakair on the map). There is a road in the valley between the villages of Bakair Kirovskoye and Groznoye (no name on the map), halfway it crosses the river. Normally one can go by car far enough upstream of Bakair. Since the entry of gorges to 7-8 km further, the river receives a left tributary Kuru-Bakair. the confluence of two major paths to successfully reach the east Djon-say pass (2303 m) and to the west the Kuru-Bakair Valley. The main trail up the valley of Suruu-Bakair forks several times to either pass of Maj-Bel (left), or towards the top of the Kuru-Bakair Valley (right) or to the pass Chon -Kyzyl-Bel (left), or to the Kyzyl-Bel Pass (3470 m, 1A) leading to the basin of the river Kugandy (same name as that of the Shilibili basin). These different paths are ramifications in the Bakair Valley (or Suluu-Bakair), 7 km respectively, 10 km, 14 km and 17 km upstream.

Above the main trail passes on the left bank of the river Bakair. On the right bank of the torrent, huge boulders had come down from the top Bakair-Choku (4457 m). Snowfields partially cover the road, hiding the rocks and the shoreline of moraines lakes. But the path of the pass is generally clearly visible. On the right (in the direction of the rise) there are some glacial valleys rising to 4120 m. Along the trail, the glacier on the left has a length of 3.2 km and climbs a little higher than the right glacier, who presents a tongue up to 100 meters lower in altitude. The trail winds between these two glaciers to reach the pass of Bakair (4091 m, 1B). On the way down the pass is quickly joined two upper glacial lakes. The downhill course circumvents these glacial lakes, then turns west. It takes a 6-7 km trail to reach the right bank of the river Shavur-say.

Further west still a major river rises on the northern slope of the Talas Ala-Too, the Kurkureu. Its watershed is less capacity than the Kara-Bura, but the tops of the watershed is in this region most tormented and jagged. To join the Kurkureu valley from the village in the Talas valley there are 16 km from Groznoye up to Kek-say (formerly a sheep-breeding state farm). A little further upstream there is the confluence of Kurkureu-Kugandy waters (right) and Atash-Chapkan (left). Let's start the description of the rise on the Kurkureu-Kugandy river.

A dirt track along the Kugandy to the confluence with the Kashka-Suu River (elevation approx. 2550m-2600m). The distance from this place to the crest ridge of the Talas Ala-Too is about 16-18 km. Here, the trail branches twice, firstly to Bakair Valley, where the trail climbs to the Kyzyl-Bel Pass (3470 m). After the two gorges of Kugandy, the valley softens and the trail goes up more regularly.

At 2900m the Kugandy valley is cut by a moraine bar with slopes and escarpments go up to 50° and a height of about 250 m. This moraine is a conglomerate of large fragments of granite. The rise of the escarpment is best done by progressively moving towards the center. The climb to the glacier (altitude 3580 m) takes about an hour. The glacier cirque length is a little over a mile, it is fairly flat, with a slightly bumpy surface, and because of the low slope, it has no large crack. Most small cracks are blocked by snow, and easily identifiable by their darker color. The march from the terminal tongue to the top of the glacier on the ridge of the Talas Ala-Too is 2.5-3 hours.

The small mountainous circuses (about 1 square km) are restricted to rocky foothills and transform at lowest altitude to lateral moraines. In the right part of the circus, a small lake has been formed in the central depression, draining the different glacial streams.

Other climbing routes are possible but a little more complicated: the inclination of the slope increases dramatically, and in some places there are cracks up to 1.5 m wide. In this case it is better to go through the rocks, which, although highly disintegrated, are easier to cross, when the slope becomes steeper (up to 65-70°), and the snow cover is lowered. The upper limit of the glacier is situated at an altitude of 3800 m. The side rocks can often bypass crevasses. This site is ideal to introduce novice climbers and hikers so that it acquires insurance in moving on the tracks in rocks. And on rock walls, there are many recreational areas.

The steepness of the slope increases even further above the pass and saddle can sometimes be blocked by a steep snow wall formed by the remnants of winter cornices. In this case you have to find a way to avoid the obstacle. The best way is still to cross the slope to the right, going up scree to reach the above Dustlik-P pass (3650 m, 2A).

The climb from the moraine below the glacier may take, in the experience of hikers, 8 to 11 hours of time, with a vertical drop of 800 m. The pass is littered with debris from broken rocks of the most bizarre forms. If necessary, when the wind is strong, it is possible to quickly build a small stone shelter for 2-3 people.

The descent leads to a small circus, elongated in the direction of Shavur-say River. The sides are rocky foothills, down under the moraines we reach a bottom formed of moraine debris, and some permanent snowfields. The easiest descent begins from the left corner of the circus, on a steep slope (up to 60°) where there is heterogeneous and rocky slopes dotted with rocky outcrops intermittently. We must be very careful and make sure you do not slip on unstable stones.

To continue the descent in altitude after leaving the circus, it is recommended to pay attention to the steep slopes of the canyon leading to the Shavur-say river because many of its slopes are unstable blocks. In its lower part the next section of the river becomes steeper. There are three waterfalls that must be overcome by rocky and muddy edges. Soon we find a path along the right bank of the river Shavur-say.

Another route runs through the left Kugandy glacial basin where the glaciers of the northern slope of the Talas Ala-Too are three in number. Southeast a small glacier begins and ends at an elevation of 3700 m. Another small glacier also supplies the source of Kugandy. It extends over 2 km, at 3360 m at its lowest point and 3840 m above. The largest glacier lies to the east of the basin behind the steep rocky slopes. Its glacier tongue has a small melt lake. This position of the glacier in the shade of the high foothills contributes to its great extension and its highest point is 4160 m. At this point, the descent from any location of the main ridge of the Talas Ala-Too, leads to the right bank of the river Shavur-say on the heights of its natural dam lake.

Now we will describe the routes on the Kashka-Suu River just west of Kugandy. Returning downstream of Kugandy, builders of the Soviet era have constructed a road that would link up pass Tiuz-Ashuu (3746 m) and the upstream waters of the Oygaing. One can go up this road on the course of Kashka-Suu to its termination. The track passes on the left bank of the river and the valley has an average slope of about 15°. Just above the main track, there are convenient enough passes that lead to the top of the Kugandy Valley (on the 100 000th map in referenced altitudes 2781 and 3017).

The trail climbs up to the last junipers where the flat bottom of the valley is gradually changing into a tighter terrain. 4 km beyond the runway at an altitude of 2950 m, at the confluence of Kashka-Suu and an unnamed tributary, there is a convenient meadow for camping up the river without a name.

Immediately after crossing some moraine ridges in the valley we find lakes remains. Moraines have blocked the feeding of these lakes by the various tributaries thrusted from the bottom of the ice tongue. The stones sometimes reach enormous proportions, water flows there below. Since the highest position of the moraine (3190 m) let us describe the route leading to the pass on the left side of a narrow circus. The most convenient ascent takes place on the left side of the glacier.

In this circus (narrow, left in the direction of the rise in the Kashka-Suu Valley), a disorderly pile of stones makes it difficult to cross the circus, and to reach the glacier it takes almost 3 hours. On the free and flat part of the glacier, with a length of about 1 km, there is no crevasses. Closer to the ridge, slope is about 45° and due to inflection of this glacier cracks get a meter wide. The crack can be overcome either directly in front, or by taking the right side, closer to the rocks, taking some snow bridges. In rocky areas, snow is deeper and the ascent is easier, above the glacier slope rises to 50° and to overcome the obstacle it must be ensured with hooks and ice screws.

Just before the peak, there may be snow ridges. The snow is found on the north side of Dustlik-1 pass (3600 m, 2A). South on the other side of the pass, there is a clastic rocks crest. Scree reach the bottom of the circus, which turns into soft and rocky slope in places with few permanent snowfields. On the edge of the circus there a huge rock, which is a landmark for alpinists and hikers that climb to the pass leading to the Shavur-say valley. The steepness of the rocky slope can be up to 50°, down towards Lake Shavur-kul.

On the upper right tributary of the Kashka-suu there is also a glacier. Its tongue is located 3260 meters and its upper limit to 3900 above. The peak over the glacier is 4034 m, slightly to the left (in the direction of the rise). The descent of the pass Dustlik-I (for i or ye) leads to the source of the glacier Tiuz-Ashu river.

The path to the Tiuz-Ashuu pass continues to climb along the left bank of the Kashka-Suu river goes accross the largest glacier in the area of 2,9 km in length and reaches the end moraines below the glacier tongue formed by the pressure of other more western glaciers. Bypassing a lake and a huge scree area, the trail reaches under the stiff tongue of the glacier (3460 m) and then follows a medial moraine, which rises almost to the pass. Before coming to a rock called the "finger", typical by its thickness of about 6 m and a height of 20 m, the trail winds through a thin scree area. To the left of the pass (in the direction of the rise) iced wall is almost vertical with powerful crevasses, right also a steep ice slope starting from the ridge, and partially icy.

The height of Tiuz-Ashu Pass is 3580 m and its difficulty in category 1A. The descent on the other side is steep, takes a slope of thin scree, manages to reach a bottom flat circus, where there are few snow fields, and then gives way to moraine lands invaded by grass. Lower the Tiuz-Ashu Valley becomes narrower. First on the right bank, next the hiking trail moves on the left bank lower in altitude (about 3000m). At this point another tributary flows into the Tiuz-Ashu, water rushed along the bedrock forms a waterfall nearby. The trail passes through some snow bridge, after which it descends steeply into the water and takes by moment the course of the river. In this passage, we must be very careful, because the current is very strong.

From here the trail continues to the edge of the water 200 meters on the slopes of tall grass and juniper. Then the path takes away from the bed of the river, and crosses several tributaries of Tiuz-Ashu. At the last confluence since right tributary you can see on the valley floor the junction of three major rivers, the Tiuz Ashu, the Shavur-say-say and Tastar. The descent of the steep hill to the junction (2420 m) takes half an hour.

The heights of the valley Tiuz-Ashu are also accessible from the basin of the Ak-Tashly River on the north side of the Talas Ala-Too. To do this, we must return to the mouth of the Atash-Chapkanu a left tributary of Kurkureu. Going up the Atash-Chapkanu its first less tributary is on the right bank, it is called the Ak-Tashly. This river flows for about 3 km into several branches on gentle slopes. The mouth of the river and all its lower part are rarely visited and there are few trails. It is only in the central part of the valley that paths become visible. The trail climbs over the remains of an old moraine to the lower part of the valley bottom glacier. The terminal glacial tongue is very steep, almost 100 m vertical, enclosed by a hedge moraines and rock debris fell from the side slopes. The tongue of the glacier is situated at an altitude of 3570 m and is 3.3 kilometers.

The glacial cirque of the Ak-Tashly River is an open northeast-southwest ellipse bounded on the east by a summit at 4061 m and to the north at 4147 m and in the southern part of the circus glacier slopes join the highest peak at 4250 m. Just west, the summit of the ridge of the Talas Ala-Too reaches 4061 meters on a mountain pass called pass of the Soviet Militia (Sovetskoy Militsi pass, 4061m).

Approaches the main peak are everywhere glacial whose slope gradually increases to the peak from 20° to 40°. Ice is often covered with deep and compact snow, forming bridges. Some cornices still cling to the slopes before the saddle. The pass of the Soviet Militia (3670 m, 1B) forms a very narrow ridge that descends on the other side by steep scree to the Tiuz-Ashu sometimes with a 45° tilt. On the right we cross a small snow-ice circus with a lake in the middle. The lake receives water filtered through all the rubble of the moraine. The route goes down the track from the pass Tiuz-Ashu (3580, 1A).

The origins of this great glacier called "Tourist of Ak-Tashly of Tashkent", there is a rather difficult mountain pass which provides access to the basin of the river Kuruchkol (east). Some climbers have often posed the question of the existence of this passage on the north branch of the crest of the Talas Ala-Too. And yet, to the attention of mountaineers hikers, we give here a description of its access from the Ak-Tashly until the Kuruchkol River Valley.

A 4-5 km above the mouth of the river Ak-Tashly merge the two rivers: the Atash-Chapkana-Maydantal (left) and

Kuruch-kol (right). The trail goes up the Kuruch-kol valley towards the Karakyr pass. A 10 to 12 km from the main ridge, the Kuruchkol is joined by two tributaries rights. Going back over the two tributaries branching off after a kilometer, and the direction is immediately right into narrow gorges filled with debris of rocks and avalanches. The stream then goes right into a big circus, surrounded by rugged rocky ridges that line the upper reaches of the glacier of rivers Kuruch-kol, Tiuz-Ashu and Ak-Tashly.

The entrance to the circus is in the form of a large "door" rock. On steep slopes there is a lot of debris to the bed of the stream. Soon the trail diverges: a good torrent rises above a moraine lake at the foot of the glacier, located in the southern part of the circus. The glacier is first partially covered with moraine sediments. On the left a steep slope go down from a small glacial cirque to the main glacier. If the surface of the slope is not covered in part by meltwater streams, you can follow in the “bédière” channel. On the right side below the crest, icy walls are almost impassable. On the left (in the direction of the rise) a rocky transition is possible towards the pass above 3610 m.

The passage of this pass can not be considered as a rational way of descent to the sources of Tiuz-Ashu, because in this case one should first go through a series of rocky foothills south to the above-Tiuz-Ashu and this prove to be impractical.

The eastern boundary of the circus is very high (over 4000 m) and at this point of the crest of the Talas Ala-Too, it has its highest peak at Manas Peak 4484 m. Tashkent climbers often climbed the spur to reach the pass at 3610 m. For this we can also bivouac around a Moraine Lake in the east, on a small rocky plateau, the night before the crucial assault.

From this plateau alpinists also dated back to the left, avoiding the rocky terrain with scree areas. Just before the peak, the inclination of the slope is up to 50°. On the ridges rocks are formed in sawtooth. Notches on the ridge, on which was blocked a similar rock of frog appearance, tourists have named this place the ANF pass (4110 m, IIA) in honor of the oldest amateur alpine hikes Tashkent A.N. Fedorov.

The path used by climbers of Tashkent is of great beauty, and according to them, the safest and most "easy". Any other way of ascent/descent may have an increased complexity to a pass level III-A and the implication of using the whole arsenal of rock climbing walls and ice equipment.

As already mentioned, the glacier Ak-Tashly is an open ellipse circus. The western and southern parts are occupied by glaciers partially broken down to the main body of the glacier. The northern boundary of the circus is at the top of 4147 m above sea level on a rock wall almost no snow dotted with ledges and scree. Scree down to the same glacier. Here at left is material of moraine interspersed with melted streams from the glacier. The circus has a low glacier smooth surface where spurting rock outcrops. In front of the top 4147 m altitude, on the south side of the circus, the body of the glacier was partially resolved by a rocky outcrop over its entire width, unusually dramatically.

How can mountaineers then down the pass to the body of glacier Ak-Tashly? 200 m north of the exit on the spur of the main ridge extends a small rocky ridge along a small hanging glacier. The descent takes place along the edge of rocks stacked overhead, and rapid progress towards a wall of ice 250-300 meters below. Always along on the left (direction of descent) the crevasses of the glacier are visible on the right, especially as open and suspended while the slope of the glacier rises inexorably. During 160-170 m down, and always by the left (in the direction of descent), Glacier jumps are encountered a height of about 1.5 m. Near the rimaye the hanging glacier in the last 50 meters have to be crossed using insurance with ice screws.

After the climbers have retreated from the hanging glacier, they reach an ice ledge, covered in snow at the edge of a wide ravine. It is a steep corridor approach the glacier slowly becomes gentler slopes. The main glacier is then cracked by crevasses often closed by snow. Melt water flows in many “bédières” on the left in a continuous stream.

There are shaped ice of "mushrooms" and "tables" and numerous lakes. You can reach the way to the pass of the Soviet Militia. And if necessary to return to the river valley Kuruch-Kol one can go through the pass of Kara-Kyr. It is in the Kara-Kyr pass that during the season from July to September, the shepherds are passing herds of cattle and sheep from one valley to another, but as soon as the snow comes almost from the end September, the pass is considered unreachable until next summer. We find in these valleys many traces of ancient glaciers of the activity. The path of the Kara-Kyr pass was following the Kuruch-Kol valley along its right bank.

This is as close to the pass of Kara-Kyr (3580 m), which is found most remarkable presence of glaciers. Indeed, in the vast circus before the pass on the left side are hanging glaciers, which, with the main glacier, cover an area of 3.8 km2. It is the largest continuous ice surface of the Kurkureu basin. Its glacial tongue is located at 3280 m. On the surface there is many melt streams flow, and more of them are confined to the right side of the steep glacier tongue. Here, among the thrusts moraine, there is a small lake. Just above the body of the glacier there is a large rock mass. The surface of the left side of the glacier has large cracks and serac falls. It is better to follow on the right bank, along the lateral slopes of moraine and scree.

At this point the glacier tongue gradually turns east at the base of the peaks Chong-Tash, and south of the peak 3760 m to the right (direction of the rise), and one can see the snow covering the crest of Talas Ala-Too, where is the Kara-Kyr Pass (3500 m, 1B). The inclination of the pass slopes are reasonable, around 25°, and snow cornices are small.

The southern slope of the ridge is almost with no firn. You have to go on the foothills left (downstream direction) by a visible and beaten tracks path convenient to go down. Attention to some places, the trail crosses a few jumps steepness of up to 40°, which can create additional difficulties. Then the trail descends to the merger of the sources of Kara-Kyr-say River. It then follows the course of the river, we must cross several times. On the path we soon found the grassy slopes and the first junipers along the river and in the sources of flush water. Before the mouth of the Kara-Kyr-say on Tiuz-Ashuu river, rocky slopes are steep and and the trail narrowed and headed toward the sunken of Oygaing Valley. Here, depending on the conditions of the river, you can either pass through or continue to descend along the right bank to the bridge.

Farther southwest of Kurkureu River basin is the basin of the river Maydantal (territory of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan). The high valley of Maydantal arises at Maydantal pass and gradually turns south for 18-20 km. Ahead of the curve to the south, the walls are steep and rocky, and foaming river flowing between rocky placers. On the banks between the rocks and along the shore and various tributaries torrents, it is a damp, grassy area. On the steep slopes erosion has created fanciful shapes rocks fractured and dotted with dark juniper bushes. The flat valley bottom is covered with deciduous shrubs groups.

On the way to the pass of Maydantal one must overcome two difficult passages. The first passage is located beyond the deciduous groves on slopes covered with juniper. The second passage is at the level of the first snow fields encountered in glacier area and scree. About 5 km from Maydantal pass narrow gorges give way to a broad valley surrounded by rocky slopes of glacial shape, place the shepherds call Ashutor (named after the river forming the Maydantal). There is a chaos of boulders piled on each other in spectacular fashion, and beautifully surrounded by ancient gnarled trunk of creeping juniper. The rocks are covered with sparse vegetation, eaten by the sheep.

The confluence of the two rivers of the founding Maydantal (the Ashutor and Chingiz) is located at 2914 m. Beyond the highest mountainous circus dominates the Peak Chong-Tash (4165 m). A 2-3 km west of the peak lies the Torashu or Ashutor pass (3678 m, 1B), leading to Chingiz Valley. On both sides of the pass are the glaciers.

To climb the pass of Maydantal, the trail goes along the moraine and then rises sharply to the peak of the Talas Ala-Too. The Maydantal pass (3524 m, 1A) is a deep notch almost at the junction of Talas and Ugam ridges at the foot of the southeast slopes of the latter massif. The descent of the pass Torashu (further south) follows the course of the river Torashu (or Ashuu-Tor). It is very steep and winds all the time in the beginning. A 10-12 km from Torashu pass, the river merges with the Tchingiz river forming the Maydantal, a left tributary of the Pskem. At the junction of the rivers also share the path towards the Tchingiz Valley.

To the west of the river Kurkureu are the rivers and gorges of Koksai and Aksai (Kazakhstan). These rivers both begin on the main ridge of the Talas Ala-Too and border the headwaters of the river Djabagly which traverse the territory of the nature reserve Aksu-Djabagly (Kazakhstan). We do not know information about the mountain passes to the sources of Kok-say. However the sources of Aksai were crossed by climbers of Kazakhstan V.Stepanova and V.Torodinym in 1952, and the trail to Sary-Tash Pass (3500 m, 2A), is known.

A.7.3. The Chatkal Range

Maps : 100 000th: K42-072, K42-083, K42-084, K42-094, K42-095, K43-073 and K43-085; 200 000th: K42-23, 24 K42, K43-19

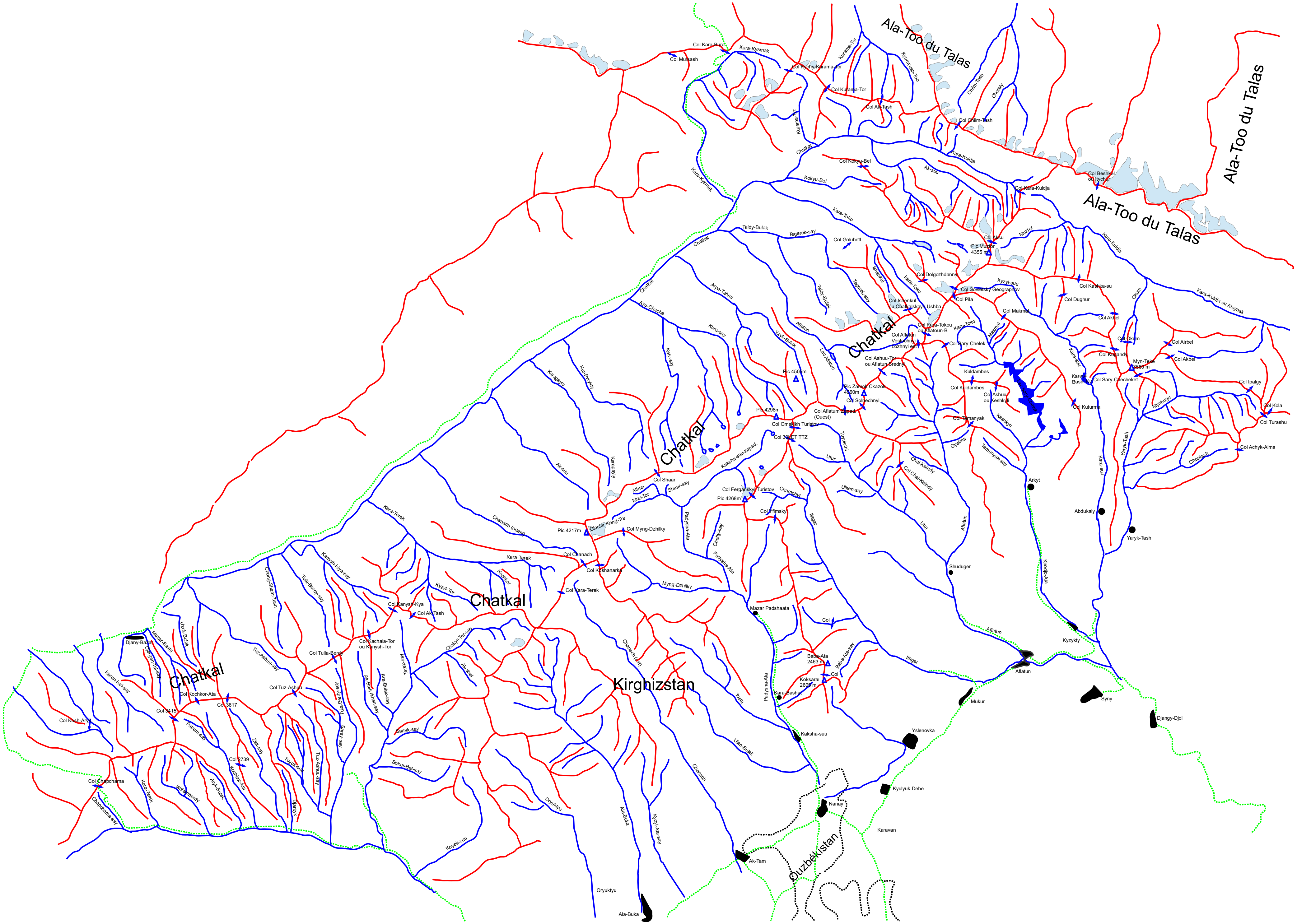
Chatkal range extends from the Talas Ala-Too to sources of Karasu and Uzunahmat rivers, along an axis of the northeast to southwest. The Chatkal stretches nearly 120 kilometers and forms the northern backbone of the Ferghana Valley. The south-east slope of the ridge has a width of 35-50 km, and its North-Western slope overlooking the Chatkal watershed is 12-18 km wide. The north-facing valleys are steeper while the south has a gentle relief. Most rivers have drawn deep gorges on both sides. The only exception is in the few east-west oriented valleys of the upper tributaries of the Chatkal (the Karakuldja, the Aksu and the Karatoko) and the headwaters of Kasan-say. Most valleys have watersheds with traces of ancient glaciation in the form of hollow valley floor often obstructed much of the year by snow. At the sources of some rivers there remain small glaciers.

The eastern part of the crest of the Chatkal is particularly indented, with very pronounced rock formations, sharp peaks that differ significantly (as the highest reaches a height of 4563 m).

To get to the heart of Chatkal from the Ferghana Valley, it is convenient to leave the city of Namangan (Uzbekistan) (which can be reached by train or bus). Since Namangan bus takes two hours to bring tourists to the village of Karavan (north, on the foothills of Chatkal, Kyrgyzstan). Karavan bus or car can carry hikers where the hiking trail begins. The route follows the axis towards Djangy-Djol also reachable from Tash-Komur on the large Osh-Bishkek road. The mountain road allows to reach from Djangy-Djol the Abdukaly village of Kara-Suu Valley. It is also convenient to get to the heart of Chatkal by road from Talas through the Talas Ala-Too and Chatkal Valley then to move on the main ridge of Chatkal at the pass Chapchama, if we want to stay on territory of Kyrgyzstan. The Bishkek-Osh road is also an option after the Toktogul reservoir, we reach the town of Tash-Komur, and from there by the semicircular route towards Karavan into various areas of Chatkal like area of Sary-Chelek Lake from the steps of the Kyrgyz Ferghana.

The limit of the zone described here is limited by the Kara-Suu river, a relatively large stream, which originates at the junction between the peaks of Chatkal and Atoynak. The watershed of the river is highly branched and includes many tributaries. We only talk about the right tributaries of the river knowing that the left tributaries are outside our area of interest (Atoynok).

Turning first to the valley of Kara-Suu River, to the east of our description, the village of Abdukaly (also Kyzyl-Kul on the map 100 000th). A road allows to reach and continues along the river for several kilometers. Outside the village of Abdukaly road trail follows the left bank of Kara-suu, passing over bridges to cross the various tributaries of Kara-suu. Here the river flows through limestone and conglomerates, and the valley soon becomes a deep ravine. Rocky slopes are steep, often gray color covered terraces and veins of white rocks falling from the mountain of Myn-Teke (3560) to the riverbed. The brilliant colors of the dewatered vegetation allied to rocky slopes in this part of the valley can be considered the most beautiful and contrasting in this region.


Ala-Too du Talas
Ala-Too du Talas
Ala-Too du Talas
Col Kara-Bura
Col Mursash
Kara-Kysmak
Col Kychy-Kurama-Tor
Kurama-Tor
Kyumyush-Too
Col Kurama-Tor
Col Ak-Tash
Chim-Tash
Chonaly
Col Chim-Tash
Chatkal
Col Kokyu-Bel
Kokyu-Bel
Kara-Kuldja
Ak-suu
Col Kara-Kuldja
Col Beshkel ou Ilychur
Kara-Kysmak
Kara-Toko
Taldy-Bulak
Tegerek-say
Col Goluboil
Col Aksu
Pic Muztor 4355 m
Muztor
Kara-Kuldja
Chatkal
Col Dolgozhdanny
Kyzyl-suu
Col Sovietsky Geograph
Col Kashka-su
Col Pila
Col Dughur
Chatkal
Ayu-Chacha
Arpa-Tahmi
Taldy-Bulak
Tegerek-say
Col Ishenkul ou Chatkalskaya Ushba
Col Makmal
Col Akbel
Okum
Kara-Kuldja ou Atoynak
Kuru-say
Yzyk-Bulak
Aflatun
Chatkal
Col Kara-Tokou ou Aflatoun-B
Kara-Toko
Makmal
Col Aflatun Vostochnyi
Col Sary-Chelek
Col Okum
Col Airbel
Kara-suu
Col Kosandy
Myn-Teke 4560 m
Col Akbel
Karagaylyy
Kur-Pyrykty
Kelty-say
Col Ashuu-Tor ou Aflatun Sredny
Kuldambes
Pic 4508m
Pic Zamok Ckazok 4560m
Col Kuldambes
Col Ashuu ou Keshkyli
Kara Bash
Col Sary-Chechekel
Col Ipalgy
Col Kola
Col Turashu
Mynbulu
Col Solnechnyi
Pic 4298m
Col Aflatun Zapad (Ouest)
Col Omskikh Turistov
Col Temanyak
Keshkyli
Col Kuturma
Yaryk-Tash
Col Achyk-Alma
Chontash
Chatkal
Ak-suu
Karagaylyy
Kaksha-suu-zapad
Col 30 LET TTZ
Tuyukchi
Oyalma
Temunyak-say
Utur
Chal-Kaindy
Col Chal-Kaindy
Arkyt
Kara-suu
Col Shaar
Atban
Muz-Tor
Shaar-say
Col Ferganskyi Turistov
Pic 4268m
Chamchyl
Ulken-say
Abdukaly
Yaryk-Tash
Kara-Terek
Chanach (ouest)
Pic 4217m
Glacier Keng-Tor
Col Myng-Dzhilky
Col Yefimsky
Padysha-Ata
Chetky-say
Itagar
Utur
Aflatun
Khodja-Ata
Col Chanach
Kara-Terek
Padysha-Ata
Shuduger
Kanysh-Kiya-say
Chong-Shaar-Tash
Tula-Berdy-say
Kochkor
Col Kurshanarka
Kyzyl-Tor
Col Kara-Terek
Myng-Dzhilky
Mazar Padshaata
Chatkal
Col Kanysh-Kya
Col Ak-Tash
Col
Aflatun
Kyzykty
Djany-Bazar
Mazar-Bashi
Uzun-Bulak
Dmgrn-Tar-say
Col Kachala-Tor ou Kanysh-Tor
Tereny-say
Chakyl-Ter-say
Baba-Ata 2463 m
Baba-Ata-say
Aflatun
Karan-Kel-say
Tuz-Ashuu-say
Col Tulla-Berdy
Ak-shal
Itagar
Chatkal
Col Kochkor-Ata
Col Tuz-Ashuu
Col 3617
Ak-Bahyrkan-say
Ara-Bulak-say
Kirghizstan
Chanach (est)
Koksaral 2605 m
Col
Kara-Bashat
Padysha-Ata
Col 3415
Col Kesh-Arty
Pabam-say
Zek-say
Tuzutu
Mukur
Syny
Djangy-Djol
Sarlyk-say
Sary-say
Kaksha-suu
Yslenovka
Col 2739
Ulan-Bulak
Toyuk-say
Tuz-Ashuu-say
Sokur-Bel-say
Chanach
Col Chapchama
Kara-Terek
Kochkor-Ata
Aryk-Bulak
Ishtamberdy
Djanyk
Oryuktyu
Ala-Buka
Kyzyl-Ata-say
Kyulyuk-Debe
Nanay
Chapchama-say
Koyek-suu
Karavan
Ak-Tam
Ouzbékistan
Oryuktyu
Ala-Buka

Orographic scheme of the Chatkal range

The track goes sometime on the foothills of the valley and then down to the water, and then walks away, passes on the right bank and struck a steeper slope lined with noisy waterfalls on the river. The increase of slopes of about 200 m is due to the presence of a dam on the river. Containment formed the Kara-suu Lake (also called Karasu-Bashi-Kul), feeding on different streams such as Kara-Kamysh and Kutemaldy-Kul. 2 km upstream of the dam in the valley there is a small lake (elevation 1700 m). During 500m upstream from the surface of the reservoir, the small river flows from lake quietly. And the valley is here invaded by spruce groves, maple, birch, often forming under trees heavy shade, filled with various shrubs as eremurusa yellowish.

Prior Lake trail detaches to the left toward the pass Kudarma-Ashu (Kuturma on the map) and then down on the other side to the lake Sary-Chelek, to the right track over the bridge and takes on the eastern shore Lake Karasu-Bashi-Kul.

The length of the lake Karasu-Bashi-Kul is 1.5 km and its width reaches up to 500 m. Its altitude is 1870 m. On the east side of the lake, away from the rocks there is a very good and convenient platform to establish a camp, the place is covered with huge trees, maples, poplars, birches and pines. A well-packed trail follows the same bank to reach the north end of the lake. The trail follows an edge in places carved out of the rock, sometimes steep and slippery below. On the eastern shore of the lake rise many pine trees, while in contrast the opposite side is naked, lifeless.

Upstream of the lake, the river is called Okunsu (among the local population is sometimes known as the Kyzyl-Suu). The bottom of the valley looks like a vast meadow with abundant vegetation, individual trees and groups of birch and fir. The meadow was formed by sediments of the delta of the river upstream, as before flowing into the lake, the river has several branches.

From the lake to the source of the Okunsu there are about 15 km away along a relatively flat valley, which rises gradually. Sometimes you need to spend a few fords on the same bank, through some marshy shores at the foot of rocky areas of the waterfront. To its left tributary the Kashka-Suu running time is about 4 hours.

Rising 2 km above the Okunsu-Kyzyl-Suu, the valley widens and we meet several tributaries of the river. We do not have information on the pass passage on the main Chatkal ridge, towards the northeast, from the source of the Okunsu, however, one can point to a pass crossing a side spur to get to the upper reaches of the Kara-Toko River (Chatkal basin). This pass is used by many groups of hikers.

Before the various sources torrents merge into Okunsu in the valley below is a small and relatively steep ravine like a bag. There is almost always there at the back the remains of snow avalanches. It is from this point that starts the track, often hidden under the snow. The trail climbs slowly over a ridge to the Makmal Pass (2700 m, 1A), and with the same slope gently descends to the river that feeds the lake Sary-Chelek. Two downhill runs are possible either along the river Makmal or along the Kula-Tau River (further up the valley).

Now let us back to Kashka-Suu mouth a few kilometers downstream, the left tributary of the Okunsu, located at the altitude of 2200 m. The valley ascent is relatively short but very marked by the remnants of winter and spring avalanches and the climb is steep to the confluence of the two sources of the river Kashka-Suu. From there, the trail turns right (direction of travel), in the valley of the Mala-Tash river, then goes up a steep and winding ridge of a spur, sometimes through long grassy slopes where grow prangosa thickets and ferrule. This is achieved by a small pass (Ak-Bel 2817) on the upper ridge, which runs on a buttress northbound. The trail sometimes gets lost on the crest of the ridge. To reach the Kashka-Suu Pass one must overcome a rocky slope, sometimes covered with packed snow. Kashka-Suu pass height is of 3525 m, and the degree of difficulty 1B.

The path of the Kashka-Suu pass permit us to go down to the north side of the river of the same name Kashkasu North. The short valley is filled with detritus coming down steep rock faces. Often the presence of snow in the valley floor is very marked, alternating with green meadows passages and gray rock bars. The descent takes about two hours (the snow is often present even lower in altitude) before joining the confluence of the river Kashkasu and Atoynak river (also known as the Kara-Kuldja on map) that goes to the Southeast (along the northern slope of the small subrange of Atoynak and empties into Lake reservoir Totktogul).

Here, the Kashka-Suu valley north joins the right bank of the Atoynak as one goes upstream along the dense vegetation. On the opposite side there is a plateau that is a very good location for jailoo (or summer mountain pasture grazing). The Atoynak river is noisy, but almost everywhere fording is possible. From the milky color of the waters of the river, we can guess that they come from the melting glacier. And indeed, one of the components of the Atoynak, the Muz-tor River begins westward under the glacier down the slopes of the eponymous top (Peak Muz-Tor, 4355). Here, the mountain is particularly steep and easy passage through the passes between the towering peaks is not really possible, that would reach the top of the Chatkal basin.

The main component of the Atoynak river is called Karakuldja and flows to the northwest. A path leads up the valley to the pass of the same name (Kara-Kuldja pass located at the source of Chatkal/Kara-Kuldja flowing west). For the climb, it is necessary to cross the tributary of the Muz-Tor and goes along the right bank of the Kara-Kuldja for about 4 hours. For a while the trail crosses the forest between some picturesque rock formations, then turns north and up the valley surrounded by high green hills. In the valley hollow, one can meet the shepherds, that is 4-5 km from the Kara-Kuldja pass. For the story this pass was a local caravan route between the valleys of Talas (by the passes Kara-Bura and Kychy-Kurama-Tor), Chatkal and Ferghana Valley. Now it is still used by shepherds for transhumance to jailoo and hikers in the mountains.

The course takes place on gentle slopes and the rocky trail leads to large areas of fescue steppes, where many cattle graze. The saddle of the pass is a kind of plateau with a wide flat surface (sirt in Kyrgyz) littered with scattered stones. This is the pass of Kara-Kuldja (3120 m, 1A). On the other side of the saddle, there is an even fescue steppe, which descends further towards the river Karakuldja (same name), the source of Chatkal. The descent is made on a wide valley, sometimes marshy and relatively flat. Furthermore we come to the yurts of the shepherds.

At 10-12 km down the Kara-Kuldja (source of Chatkal) we are joined to the right a path leading to Chiim-Tash Pass following a tributary of the river. After 10 km, the trail turns right again and reaches the Ak-Tash Pass (3000 m). Soon the trail becomes a dirt track where trucks occasionally pass delivering products to the shepherds. About 1.5 kilometers below the junction of the trail to the pass Chiim-Tash, a path separates and branches off to the left bank of Kara-Kuldja. It rides on a low ridge that separates this valley of the Aksu River Valley (also a component of the Chatkal downstream). This river rises from five glaciers on the flanks of the mountain, and only two are located on the slopes of the main ridge of the Chatkal. Mountaineers from Leningrad (Saint-Petersburg) had made the ascent of the main Aksu glacier to Aksu Pass (3450 m, 1B), and then down to the upper reaches of the river Muz-Tor River in its main circus source, where is the Bobrinskogo glacier.

The Aksu valley where the trail crosses is broad and relatively flat, but on its left bank a trail rises to Kokuy-Bel Pass (3036 m, 1A), it is quite steep. From the Kokuy-Bel pass, the trail crosses a small spur and along the slopes to the south, following the river Kokuy-Bel and reaches the top of the valley of the river Kara-Toko. The descent to the bed of the river is steep, but the trail is safe and correct.

This is the essence of what we describe about Kara-Toko Valley. And now, back to the basin of the Kara-Suu River, specifically in its important right tributary valley of the Hodzhaata river (on the map the Khodjo-Ata). The basin of the river Hodzhaata (or Kodjo-Ata) starts directly from the main ridge of the Chatkal (in its highest point at 4247 m) and extends over nearly 40 km and a width of 6-10 km. The upper part of the watershed is nearly the southern end of Lake Sary-Chelek. From a geological point of view this part of the Chatkal is mainly composed of limestone, which makes its relief more indented by deep valleys and steep slopes. In the lower valleys area dominates rocky conglomerate of sandstone or marl. Bordering bottom valleys there are gentle slopes covered with a thick layer of soft soil.

By road a bus can take you into the main village in the upper valley Arkit. This is where is the entrance to the nature reserve of Lake Sary-Chelek. Here it is necessary to obtain permission to visit the territory through the administration office.

The reserve was created in 1960, its size is approximately 21 000 hectares. Its length from north to south is 20-25 km and its width reaches up to 12 km. In the upper part of the reserve there are narrow and deep gorges, over which bristle rocky peaks. On the steep slopes above sea level there is often steep snowfields. Alpine vegetation down into the grasslands, shrubs grow as spruces, firs, junipers and deciduous trees. The lower part of the reserve is occupied by walnut forests alternate with shrubbery. Of the total area of the reserve, there are nearly a thousand species of plants.

There are no less wealth and variety in wildlife. There was still in the 1970s: 41 species of mammals, 157 species of birds and reptiles, 52 species of amphibians and five species of fish. Among the large animals were encountered wild boars, deer, bears, wild cats, badgers, porcupines. On the tops of high mountains reserve live ibex, Marco Polo sheep, stoats, weasels and at the top of the food range wolves and a few snow leopards. On the sites of the rocky cliffs can be seen grouse, ptarmigan, swallows, swifts, thrushes, and birds of prey like eagles, griffon vultures, condors and vultures. Areas bushes are particularly rich in bird floodplains with thick groves. Cormorants are on lakes, as well as different varieties of ducks, herons and ospreys. Some fish species are also found in rivers and lakes of the reserve, as Schizothorax species published in the 1970s, carp, trout of the Amu Darya. Along the river, some amphibians also live like green toad, frog, water snakes, the forest belt and various species of snakes some of which are poisonous, as a variety of viper (close to the snake American moccasin, very poisonous).

We will now describe some hiking in the reserve in the heart of the exploration of the Chatkal ridges. Over the last houses of the village of Arkit the river Hodzhaata (or Khodjo-Ata) meets his right tributary Tamanyak (or Temunyak-say on the map). This surface flows intermittently and a trailhead makes up the valley. On the north side, the walnut trees in the forest are enormous and almost crown above the river. The huge stones and full boulders partly stacked obstruct the river and provide a picturesque view of the gorge. The old birches bend their gnarled trunk at the edge of the water. Above the gorge there are multiple tree species such as walnut, apple, maple, hawthorn bushes and blackberries.

Going up the gorge narrows gradually, and the rocks seem wanting to eat the river. One must then pass through an area of large boulders almost completely filling the gorge as the crossing becomes more difficult. Above the transition, the Temunyak valley widens and the trail reappears and winds along the slope along the cliffs. During the rainy season, the track is no longer practicable. The end of the trail leads to the pass Tamanyak or Temunyak (3050 m, 1A), located at 10-12 km from the village of Arkit.

From the heights of the river Temunyak there are also several tracks, leading to the valley Aflatun, which eventually merge into one on the left side of the valley. At the bottom of the river spring avalanches formed snow fields, taking with them the broken stones and trees. The snowfield often intermittently obstruct the trail to the left bank of the river Aflatun, then we can go through the dry bed of the river.

The dirt road continues to the Hodzhaata River, then turns sharply to the right. If we continue on the river Hodzhaata we reach the pass Kichkel (Keshkyli on the map 2552 m), and one can be reached below the northern tip of Lake Sary-Chelek. According to sources of some informations this pass is called with the same name as the lake.

In the Valley of Arkit a winding road rises on the eastern foothills to reach the southern tip of Lake Sary-Chelek beyond a ridge, at the Kylakul lake. It has a length of about 700 m, and its width of 200 to 400 m. Its depth is insignificant. A short water cord connects upstream to the large Sary-Chelek lake. On flat banks grow prangosa (Latin Name), fruit trees and juniper. Closer to shore is growing a lush lakeside vegetation (reeds, cattails, sedges). On the south shore of Lake Kylakul, the road diverges either to the right leading down to the two lakes Chachakul and Igrykul or left to the lake Sary-Chelek. From the village Arkit to the Lake Kylakul, there are about 12 km in distance.

From the top of the lake dam it opens to your eyes a real "corridor" filled with water between the mountains stretched from north-west to south-east, nearly 7 km. The greatest depth of Sary-Chelek lake reaches up to 245 m, and its widest part (southwest) reached almost 1.5 km, its lowest (average), 350 m. All the surrounding mountains rise to 2600-2800 m while the lake is 1858 m.

The shores of Lake Sary-Chelek are very picturesque. Steep cliffs often fall into deep waters, blackened by the flanks of the mountain. In some places the rocks are replaced by slope jutting out into the clear water, and one can almost see each stone. On the trails, grow mainly in the north, spruce, fir and juniper. They form genuine small forests. Closer to the water, especially in the valleys of some of its tributaries, there are many birches. Felled trees and demolished by avalanches are generally placed on the south shore.

The Sary-Chelek Lake is near several small lakes. We have already spoken of Lake Kyla-Kul. To the west of Sary-Chelek is the Bakalyk-Kul, the southeast Chukur-Kul lake, Chacha-Kul, Haram-kul and Igry-Kul.

The trail leading to the lake Igry-Kul (Iru-Kul on the map) begins north in the directon Kudarma-Ashu Pass (Pass Kuturma on the map). Straight (upstream) rises the crest of the watershed, beyond which flows the river Kara-suu. The mountainous landscape is very diverse as the flora composed of apple, honeysuckle, juniper, spruce, strewn with boulders, with open spaces overgrown with grass and prangosa. The altitude increase is relatively modest. It is only one kilometer from the pass that the climb is noticeable, while between the Igry-Kul Lake and the southern end of Lake Sary-Chelek the relief is practically flat. Beyond the ledge the trail becomes at once more difficult: it climbs along a stream, partly in its bed. The feet can slip on the smooth stones by the water. In some places the rocks form stacks of plates, sometimes discharged as rubble.

From the Igry-Kul Lake to the pass it takes about 2 hours drive, and from Sary-Chelek, it takes half an hour. Before the pass, on the edge of the path, there is a signpost arrow held by large stones indicating the direction of Kudarma-Ashu pass (Kuturma, 2460 m, 1A). In the valley of the Kara-Suu River trail is well marked, even if its size decreases and it winds. The trail skirts the left rocky cliffs almost perpendicularly above the water, and from there the valley bottom you can see the lake Karasu-Bashi-Kul. From there, the trail continues to the bridge over the Kara-suu, at about 1.5 hours down.

Let us now describe the north end of Lake Sary-Chelek where the river of the same name is thrown. The three tributaries north shore of Lake appears separately in the form of a stone bed, with very little water. The very mouth of the main river looks like a floor covered with a thick layer of grass with trees scattered here and there.

Near the mouth of the river start traces of trails to the north leading to the Sary-Chelek pass. The climb is steady but not difficult. On the occasion we must leave traces to avoid tall grass on lawns arriving to the waist. If necessary go round the edges of the rocks. Above the subalpine vegetation appears easier to cross, up to the pass at altitude 2820 m. We can then see the lake below, with its eastern shores and meadows spruce.

On the south side of the pass there are no trees and the slopes are overgrown with prangosa, and bushy groves leading down to a valley basin of the river Hodzhaata (or Kodjo-Ata).

At 1 km upstream of Lake Sary-Chelek the river narrows. She met her first right tributary, Kuldambes, coming from the west, and has been in a stony bed. North facing slopes become steeper, interspersed with jumps, sometimes steep, grassy ledges and are dotted with pine trees. Above Sary-Chelek river flows a left tributary from which you can climb to the pass Makmal to the east. In the main valley at an altitude of 2200-2400 m appear the first snowfields. All around the rock and slope, running water is present. In the bed of the river birches are rarer. The valley narrows even forming a gorge, the rocks are similar, but the trail remains clearly visible, avoiding the snowy areas early in the season.

The gorge opens somehow suddenly on a large rocky area formed by the main ridge of the Chatkal between the basins of the upper Aflatun, the Sary-Chelek. The slopes are covered with juniper and above you can see the grassy slopes even higher altitude bare rocks are exposed to strong sunlight, snow ribbons and blue sky form successive impressions in this magnificent landscape. On the left the circus (in the direction of the rise) is the pass of Kuldambes (2900 m, 1A), accessible by a good route and communicating south with the eponymous valley. A rocky trail to the west reaches Aflatun East Pass. Streams flow through the tumultuous waterfalls between huge stones. Here the climb becomes steep, first along the left bank of the river, then a snow field is achieved to a secondary canyon, while hikers do not go to the circus, often blocked by snow. On the right of the circus (always in the direction of the rise), it is difficult to distinguish the corridor, which is the descent of the Kara-Toko pass and access to the river basin of the same name. Left circus Sary-Chelek river mainly due to the melting of a small glacier of 0.25 km2, receiving only very little runoff. It bypasses the small glacier climbing the rocks on the right (uphill direction) towards the ridge and Aflatun East Pass (3340 m, 1B). Access to the saddle of the pass and Aflatun River Valley can be closed by snowfields and steep ledges remains. The distance from the Sary-Chelek lake to the Aflatun East Pass is about 15 km away.

From the pass we descend for a few kilometers on steep snowfields, staying on the left of the slope. Farther below appears track. First the path is hidden under the snow that lies along the side tributaries. The snow is so deep that it is sometimes necessary to perform pause, step by step. At about 8 km from the valley the trail follows the contours, until reaching a ledge above high cliffs, where you have to go down and joined a trail to Aflatun-center pass and the valley Aflatun. This is the largest right tributary of the Kara-Suu river. The Aflatun basin has an extension of 15-18 km adjacent to the main Chatkal ridge, from the highest point of the sector, up to 4340 m. In the upper part of the river it remained four small glaciers with a total area of less than 1.5 km2.

From the lower reaches of the upstream Aflatun, there is a dirt track about fifteen kilometers, passing the village of Shuduger (near the confluence of the Aflatun with its right tributary the Utur river) that joined the forestry institution Batra Khan (year 1970-1980, on the edge of the right tributary Batra Khan) and ends just above the latter. In this region, the Batra Khan is a major river nearby a minor tributary Chel-Kandy or Shal-Kandy upstream. A path in the Shal-Kandy Valley goes up to the hill of Shal-Kandy (2719 m) and can get to the Utur Valley.

A long forest trail path on the left bank of the Aflatun for at least 10 km and move upstream to the mouth of the river Oyalma (Uyalma on the map), and halfway on the right by a track to the pass Tamanyak (or Temunyak). At the confluence of Aflatun and Oyalma the valley is wide and covered with green lawns and trees. Above the valley narrowed strongly. The left side Oyalma valley is flat with traces of avalanches and landslides, right slopes are covered with spruce. The trail goes almost all the time along the foaming river and only begins to winds at first ridge with Kuldambes Valley, when the vegetation becomes a grassy pasture.

In the valley Aflatun as in the Oyalma Valley, down the northern slopes are covered with spruce forests and the southern slopes of eremurus thickets (lily of the steppes). The steep walls are of limestone formation. And as you go up in altitude, the valley becomes more mineral and reliefs are tormented.

The closer we get to the pass, the slope gradually softened. The grass of the pastures, gradually gave way to the detrital rock. A hundred meters from the grass, pass disappears completely, and gives way to bare rock that litter the Aflatun-central pass (3364 m, 1B, perhaps Ashuu-Tor Pass on the map). It may also remained snow early in the season. The landscape of the descent on the northern slope of the Chatkal ridge likes the rise before on the opposite side, but in reverse order. There was first a gentle rocky slope surrounded by limestone cliffs on the sides. On the slopes gradually grow juniper. Lowest one cross a flat rocky sector with very soft colors.

Then the trail descends to the bottom of a narrower gorge, goes from one bank to the other along the side pebble deposits, which leads us to the output of the narrow valley to reach the left bank of the sources of Aflatun River (on the other side and tributary of Chatkal). The wild and picturesque gorge seems far impregnable. But this is the first impression because it can easily be crossed from one side to the other to reach the lake Aflatun at the confluence with another valley. But before talking about this lake, giving a description of other passes of the Aflatun Valley (south side) to the west.

The path to these passes is located along the river Utur (with a length of about 25 km), which flows into the Aflatun (south side) just above the village of Shuduger. The path along the river Utur is sometimes flooded, it is necessary to cross the river either wading or on some two or three bridges installed by farmers. From the village of Shuduger after 15-17 km of trail we reach the confluence of the Utur and Tuyukchi (1650 m). To go up though the Utur Valley you have to turn left (direction of the rise) to get to the top of the river Itokar (It-Agar on the map). The transition from the Utur valley to Kashka-Suu West River (Padshaata River basin or Padysha-Ata on the map) is a fairly difficult pass called 30-letiya TTZ (30th anniversary of the tractor factory Tashkent). In the same area of the upper valley of the Utur, it is easier to go through the pass of "Tourists Omsk" located between the watersheds of Tuyukchi and Kashka-Suu, just up the valley of the tributary of Tuyukchi.

So near that confluence with the left tributary Tuyukchi begins the route of access to the Aflatun West Pass. The barely perceptible trail first goes along the tributary on the right bank through a spruce forest, then moves on the left bank formed by scree and again crossing the deeper forest, sometimes getting lost a little bit in the tall grass. At 1.5 km from the mouth, the valley is blocked by a wall on which the river cascade. The waterfall can be bypassed through the diversion of a rocky corridor left (compulsory insurance with a rope). Above the gorge is still enclosed between high walls, and soon it opens on a large sloping valley filled with avalanche debris.

The comb of the pass is already visible before reaching the snow slopes in the upper part of the valley. The pass is on the left bank of the valley, with a steep bank at foot, and near the top of the vertical section of rock and scree rise up to 40 m in which winds the trail to finally get out on the ridge to the pass Aflatun West (3370 m, 1B).

From the pass we see a northeastern peak which is a renowned tourist destination called "The Castle of Count" (4060 m, Zamok Ckazok). At the eastern end of the circus is the “Sunny Pass”, first climbed by hikers of Tashkent and of difficulty 2A (altitude 3620 m).

On the north side of the Chatkal ridge below you cross a snowy circus and beyond appears the trail down the valley. The latter forms a hollow glacial U directed straight to the north, and joins Lake Aflatun (north slope of Chatkal). The length of the Chatkal ridge to the Lake is about 10 km. This lake was formed by the accumulation of sediments of a left tributary, which blocked the course of Aflatun. It's just at the north end of the lake that appears the mouth of the river out of rocks, a powerful surge of water into the Aflatun.

The valley continues with the same look beyond Lake. The river and its tributaries flow on various small flat land surrounded on all sides by high walls. On the steep cliffs cling grows spruce and juniper. Few kilometers downstream a lake on Aflatun is located at a sharp turn in the northwest valley. This lake is located at the foot of a narrow slot of smoothed limestone and blocks the passage. To pass through you must be on the edge with water up to his knees. After the valley widens slightly, but it still takes a wild character. Clifftop flowing waterfalls can be seen all around. Despite the very sunken nature between high slopes, the valley floor is covered with trees and shrubs. It takes time to move downstream until the track begins to rise on a buttress to bypass a narrowed area.

Then the trail continues down the river to Chatkal through a very gentle slope. The confluence forms a vast plateau with beautiful abundant herbaceous vegetation, a privileged place for jailoo where there are yurts of shepherds and sheeps. From there you can see the northwestern edge of the Sandalash Chain.

On this plateau are the main trails leading to various parts of the Northwest side of Chatkal. Of the main runway, almost parallel to the Chatkal ridge, stands trails ranging to deep valleys of tributaries Taldybulak and Tegerek-say. Another trail of 18-20 km distance rise directly since Aflatun towards the Blue pass (Goluboï, 3100 m, 1A) to go down in the Kara-Toko Valley on the opposite side. At this point begins the trail of Kokuy-Bel pass (3036.6 m).

The valley of Kara-Toko have beautiful terraces: both sides are covered with spruce, juniper, and near water birch and various shrubs. The trail goes up the Kara-Toko valley on the left bank. The trail is located high on the sides, through the pine forests of the Tien-Shan. It is quite far from the river, under the cliffs. Only in the vicinity of the confluence with the left tributary of Karatoko the Ishenkul we back down on the bed of Kara-Toko. Here in the valley is a beautiful blue lake from rock material dam, extending from east to west, 650-700 m wide.

Upstream of the valley of Kara-Toko, there are also several small lakes that lines a distance of 5-6 km. For Lake Kara-Toko the presence of successive landslides on mountain sides is responsible for its appearance. Its length varies from one bank to another 1.5 to 2.5 km with a width of about 500 m. High cliffs fall directly to the water on the north shore and south steep scree just soften onto the lake shore. The head of the lake is fed by two tributaries. These tributaries originate in the glaciers of the north-west slopes of the Chatkal ridge.

Now back to the mouth of the river Ishenkul. Here the trail goes on an inconspicuous route to overcome an obstruction in the valley. Few kilometers upstream there are two major lakes roughly equal. They are connected by a narrow channel flowing between high rock"gates". There is also a small lake below on a sloping area which is about 6 km from the mouth. The lower rocky canyon widened gradually into a glacial valley of basin-shaped with a rich alpine vegetation. At the end of the valley a circus superior lake is fed by melt water from a small hanging glacier. The rise of the mouth to the circus Ishenkul takes 4 hours, but it takes another 1.5 hours to reach the crest of Chatkal itself.

The route that starts from the circus keeps along a very steep slope detrital rocks. It can be used if needed a lifeline. The slope has some snow ledge on the side of the Ishenkul-say than can be bypassed around the right side of the pass. Mountaineers of Tashkent gave this pass the same name Kara-Toko (3670 m, 2A). Direct descent from the pass is impossible: the scree gully end in impassable rock bars. It is best to go right along a small corridor of loose rocks and to achieve the descent on a steep scree mixed firn, below one reach a grassy slope and again a scree which ultimately goes down a snow field to the Aflatun-East Pass.

The Itokar River (named It-Agar on the map, pouring Ferghana), right tributary of Aflatun, does not directly originates on the slopes of the main ridge of the Chatkal. It begins on the southeastern slopes of one of his spurs (North-South oriented practically starting from the highest peak of Chatkal, Peak 4503) from the peak 4340 m (or 4268 on the map) the highest on the eastern slopes of the highest crests of the mountains. The geographical position of the source results in limiting the spread of the watershed of the river. The source comes from two small glaciers with a total area 0.63 km2, oriented to the northeast. The Itokar flows into the Aflatun near the village of the same name. A beaten dirt track goes along the left bank of the river, passing first village Itokar (It-Agar on the map) and upstream several small villages in the shade of fruit trees. Gradually, the valley narrows and the dirt track often goes from one bank to another, and will eventually reach closer to the bed of the river and the rocks of the gorge, just 20 meters.

These "gates" far downstream, soon upstream leave to a broader valley, where the road goes up the right bank. Here is the house of forest guards. Before the house of the guard is the mouth of the right tributary Baba-Ata-say of the Itokar. Its valley is closed by two distinct peaks and low altitude: the Koksarai (2605 m) and the Baba-Ata

(2463 m). Crossing the minor passes close to these peaks, one can easily reach the Padshaata Valley (Padisha-Ata).

In the valley, the road to Itokar has several branches leading to pasture (jailoo) where shepherds raising sheep and horses and come down with horse milk. The place is famous for its Koumiss (fermented mare's milk). The road ends near the spot where the valley narrows and begins the gorge of the river. It is located on the right side of the river with beautiful trees. The trail leads through a forest of spruce on the lateral ridge that descends on the basin of the river Padshaata (or Padisha-Ata) by its left tributary the Dzhol-Bakana. On top of Itokar Valley can also reach the sources of Utur, the Chetty-say and Kashka-suu. The latter two rivers are also in the Padshaata basin (or Padisha-Ata).

The Padshaata collects its water from the southern slope of the Chatkal range, starting directly from the ridge, where the peaks are over 4300 m. The relatively large crest height justifies the presence here of small glacier with a total area of about 2 km2. This mountainous region Padisha-Ata watershed is composed mainly of limestone, to a lesser extent sandstone, conglomerate and shale, a mixture of solid rock outcrops and detrital talus area. In the upper part of the valley, numerous tributaries are encumbered erosive materials, surface grains of the rocks. The river itself belongs to the Syr Darya basin but their waters do not flow to Ferghana valley, because they are mainly used for irrigation.

In the plain 5 km from the village of Nanay was at the time the 1970s a campsite"Koksarai" near the office of the regional council of tourism and excursions of Namangan. Bypassing the campsite, a dirt road leads to the village of Kara-Bashat. The village is also accessible by car from the right bank of Padisha-Ata from Nanay. The Nanay-Kara-Bashat route also crosses the right tributaries of Padisha-Ata (Ulanbulak, Tocty, etc.). We can climb by paths to the various sources of these rivers behind which, on the lateral ridge, is the basin of the river Chanach.

The road ends at Mazar "saint" of Padshaata (Muslim place of pilgrimage). Here begins the pedestrian part of the road. A bridge crosses to the right bank of the river and it rises about 500 meters, staying in the shade of birch trees on the roadside.

The groves of Padshaata is scarce upstream and rocks are closer to the water. Fallen stones from the upper slopes have blocked the river, causing a flow of turbulent and roaring water. The transition is not long, just a kilometer of gorge whose local name is Kapchugay. The trail runs along sometimes one or the other side via bridges specially designed for visitors (hikers and pilgrims). After 25 minutes of walk either side of the gorge the mouth of a left tributary is reached, the Dzholbakan, that one may takes. 1 km further on the Dzholbakan there is still a river fork. Following the path of the left tributary our walk leads us into the Itokara Valley. Continuing straight on Dzholbakan logically one can reach the sources of the river It-Agar (or Itokar), but nobody seems to be going through this place for which we do not have information.

Two kilometers upstream from Padysha-Ata, a path turns to the right tributary, the Myn-Dzhilki (or Myng-Dzhilki on the map), the water flow is almost equal to that of Padysha-Ata. The confluence is located at an altitude of 1760 m, where a path takes up the Mynzhilki Valley (across with a bridge possibly slightly upstream of Padysha-Ata). The alluvial plain of Padysha-Ata is covered by groves of spruce, fir, birch closer to the water and bushes. The trail is well develop, from one bank to the other by successive bridges constructed by local people. Further the trail continues on the right bank, going up sharply over the river on the slopes, to overcome a closure in the valley. Above the last bridge crossing upstream, a path continues to the valley of the River Chetty-say, and provides connections to the sources of Itokar river by the passage of a pass in the hills. Near the mouth of the river Chetty-say there are camps of shepherds and farmers.

Along the Padisha Ata valley, the trail continues to climb on the right bank. The river now flows in a wide valley to the first fairly sweet side slopes, then gradually turns to the north. An hour and a half walk from the mouth of Chetty-say while there is virtually no elevation, there is a beautiful pine forest, where you can build a very nice camp (2095 m) for the night. Let us named it “The Sapineraie”.

From the camp of “sapineraie”, it only takes 40 minutes to reach the confluence of the rivers Kashka-Suu (west) and Muztor at the origin of the Padisha-Ata River. Above the confluence stand immense rock towers into vertiginous walls where water gushed ending onto the steep grassy slopes, overgrown with bushes and huge trees. The altitude of the confluence is about 2200 m. The two sources of Padisha-Ata are similar in size and quantity of water.

At the confluence the river Muztor goes northwest and Kashka-Suu- west River to the northeast. The relatively broad valley of the Kashka-Suu-West River gives the impression to be able to easily move upon it, but it is only an appearance, because the steep upper slopes and landslides converging together have rendered the valley floor relief almost impassable, especially when the waters of the river are high. Therefore, it is preferable to enter the top of the Kashka-suu-west valley, around the gorges of the Shaar-say River (north branch of the river Muztor).

So at the confluence of rivers the trail runs along the right bank of the river Muztor, away immediately from the water to bypass the small river. The crossing of the river is at a distance of 2 km upstream, while it is necessary to cross the waters of Muztor three times, with the last jump at the mouth of the Shaar-say in the Muztor. Here the river is compressed between two huge rocks, causing quite an important water flow.

Above the river crossing the path climbs straight up the Shaar-say gorge and then disappears under the rocks (above a resurgence). So here we must continue quietly above the stony bed, which forms during 150-170 m successive smooth jumps on flattened rocks either with no vegetation or a little herbaceous one. Beyond the trail takes slightly to the left (direction of the rise), along the foothills separating the valleys of Shaar-say and Muztor. The Shaar-say trail winds along the left bank near the bedrock. Above the water reappears under rocks and comes to the surface in some places. Gradually the trail flattens on the slope to carry us on a large flat surface, where one find the jaïloos and camps of the Shepherds (2860 m).

To the east is clearly visible a pass to return in the Kashka-Suu-West River Valley. After passing the pass (3308 m), the trail crosses the numerous foothills of the main ridge of the Chatkal, down to the Kashka-suu-west river. From the heights, then you can see the areas that have been bypassed downstream to the confluence of the Kashka-suu-west and Muztor: the path descends to 6 km to reach the valley upstream. Here the valley is wide, with a flat relief and no vegetation (2800 m). The trail climbs gently along the right bank of the Kashka-suu-west river. The river on the right bank has no tributaries, however left bank there are several streams from small glaciers of the northern slope of a lateral ridge of Chatkal, behind which are the upstream sources of Itokara (It-Agar) and of Utur rivers.

Kashka-suu-west valley becomes steeper before dealing with the first snow fields: we are at the river sources. The upper valley became a huge circus filled with snowfields, talus and small nestled glaciers exposed in the north or in the south-east corner. On the north side of the circus, Altitude peaks 4369 m (North-East), 4235m (North West) and 4100 m darken the slopes and the pass of “Omsk tourists” is located south. Peak 4100m serves as a reference point to identify because the circus has several buttresses. Access to the pass of “Omsk tourists” is simple (from a moraine and then a steep scree), but it takes about 2.5-3 hours. On the eastern side of slope, the downhill takes a long scree before entering a sunken circus and joining the Tuyukchi River which flows mostly to the south (about 6 km), sometimes by narrow passages blocked by snow. On this site the river Tuyukchi is quite turbulent, it is sometimes necessary to cross or run down small waterfalls, sometimes interspersed with sections of snowfields a little steep (up to 60-70°). After, Tuyukchi valley turns to the south and widens. That was when gooseberry bushes, raspberry and woody vegetation appear. After 5-6 km Tuyukchi merged with the Utur river. It's a summer pasture location (jailoo) used by shepherds that we have already mentioned before, it is located on the left side of dry bedrock. Here the trail climbs about 1 km, then turn left and continue in a direction parallel to the ridge. From there you can walk along the river for about 2.5 hours quietly without really track to climb up to the watershed of the Kuru-say River. In the upper part east of the pass, there is a small glacier that feeds the lake. The access road can be seen from a distance view. That pass on the watershed line can be classified as a 1B cotation difficulty at an altitude of about 3600 m.

The trail, which runs through the rocky bed of Shaar-say, about 100 m above the cliffs turn left (direction of the rise), a short time parallel to the main ridge of the mountain then gradually rises on a buttresses, which ends in a rocky area. On the way to the next buttress we will reach one of the torrents of Shaar-say, the origin comes from the eternal snows above. Before reaching a place 40 meters from the cliff, a poorly marked trail turns right to go up a scree corridor, another foothill and go up again to climb a corridor to the altitude of 3370 m where a small source is located. Thence in a half-hour climb on a rocky path (sometimes it gets lost in the scree) trail reaches the pass of Shaar. The altitude of the pass is 3600 m, and its difficulty is 1A, but when it remains snow it can be classified 1B.

The pass is rather narrow, covered with a thin gray detrital layer. The trail on the other side goes steep to the center of the source circus of the river Kurpyrildy whose slopes are covered with thin layer of scree. Well below the start of the river bed, the track will reappear on the right bank.

Finally, let us describe the rise of the Muztor River Valley to its source, a tributary of Padisha-Ata. In the valley the trails split, one starting into the rocky gorges of Shaar-say and the other in the upper reaches of Muztor. At this point it is possible to find a good place to camp or bivouac. One found on the first heights of slopes sufficient firewood. On opposite side, the right bank steeply down to the water and as the trail crosses on the left bank for 1 km, you have to cross the river ford. In addition, the appearance of the valley changes: on the left bank walls are steep and full of scree, on the right bank instead grow spruce, fir, and the track winds through tree groves. In the main stream of the river in many places scattered boulders formed a succession of rapids and waterfalls.

At an altitude of about 2700 m, the forest ends and the path goes into a big scree area in which runs steep switchbacks all along the river for about 1.5 km away. In the wider part of the valley the Muztor flows into several branches, sometimes narrow, compressed by the rocks, where the river roared and foam. The path to bypass the various waterfalls of the river, sometimes has to rise far above the water. It takes about two hours to get from the mouth of the Shaar-say into the upper Jaïloos on the river Muztor. Here, at an altitude of 3000 m the river has a small tributary, which winds up on the mountain heights to Muztor-II pass (also called on map the Myng Dzhilki pass, possible contradiction between the original edition and the topographic map). It is necessary to take the left bank of the tributary to reach this pass for about two hours. 500 m before the ridge the trail becomes broader, used by cattle, which can reach in 30 minutes and safely Muztor-II pass (3490 m, 1A). From this point you can descend into the basin of the river Myng-Dzhilki.

The main stream of Muztor river continues to move towards the west. At a height of 3100-3200 m the first snowfields we encounter above the river flows in a smooth channel into the rock. The trail ends here. It is better to move higher on the right bank.

The river Muztor comes from the left tongue a glacier (Kung-Tor on the map), which is pretty flat. In this gently sloping glacier, one can walk safely without fear of cracks and crevasses. The glacier length is 2.4 km, the surface of 1,2 km2, its highest point is at 3990 m. The line of permanent snowfields is located at an altitude of 3810 m. The glacier is named Keng-Tor. To the west and north, it is closed by high walls, from which fall numerous avalanches. The whole glacier tend to move more strongly on the left bank, where there are more thrusted debris and moraines. On the left bank of the glacier, there are glacial lakes. On the western slope is present hanging glaciers cascading on the wall of about 100 m wide, sometimes up to 250 m. The body of the glacier gradually turns to the north, at the foot of the Peak 4217 m. From slopes of this summit as those of the other peaks, many avalanches in the sector thrusted the rocks on the entire surface of the glacier.

To explore the upper reaches of the river Myng-Dzhilki, we must return to its confluence with the River Padisha-Ata (1800m). The path to the pass starts there on the left bank of Myng-Dzhilki for 1 km, then crosses to the right bank by a bridge. Before the bridge, there is on the right side a large camping area, where it is easy to establish for a night. Over the bridge, on the right bank a path can reach towards the Tostu River Valley through a pass at 3000 m. On the trail of Myng-Dzhilki one must ford the river several times even with bridges or wading. The valley is very beautiful with green birch groves at the edge of the water, groves of spruce, fir, mulberry and raspberry on the slopes. One can also meet shepherds camps.

A 14-15 km from the mouth to the Padysha-Ata, on the left there is a beautiful waterfall with a height of about 30 m and just upstream of the canyon begins Myng-Dzhilki Canyon. The rocky cliffs are around sometimes up to 500 m high and the rivers comprises waterfalls of 10-15 m, in wihch water bubbles and foam. The course of the river is full of huge rocks produced by landslides, between which the river makes its path.

The valley trail turns right and climbs on a dry track (westbound) after 2 km you turn left (northbound) and begin a long climb in a valley. The trail climbs almost 1,000 meters vertically for almost 5 km on a winding and steep path. The trail leads to Koshanarka pass, at the altitude of almost 3200 m.

From the pass we then see the sources of Myng-Dzhilki river. The top of the mountains form a jagged ridge, sharply divided. While the upper course of the river is visible, it extends about 2.5 km away. Somewhere in the middle of the high valley there is a tributary that flows into the impenetrable part of the valley (which we have by pass using the pass). Far down below, where the valley widens a little, you can see the hardly noticeable encampment of shepherds. The trail leads to that camp through a buttress.

The high-mountainous circus of Myng-Dzhilki is bordered by the sources of the rivers (west to east from the north): Chanach, Aksu and Karagayly Muztor. The first three belong to the watershed of Chatkal, while Muztor is on the watershed of the Naryn (Syr Darya). There are passes that allow access to the valleys of the Aksu and Chanach. The pass of Myng-Dzhilki meanwhile connects Myng-Dzhilki River with headwaters of the river Karagayly, slightly behind the north. This pass is estimated difficulty 1B at an altitude of about 3800 m. On the north side of the Chatkal ridge, rocky descent is steeper. It must be bypassed on the right crossing the rocks, to avoid the steep slope. Beyond after about 1 km downhill the track reappears and goes down to the river and the Chatkal basin.

From the bottom of the upper valley of Myng-Dzhilki, starting from jaïloos and going east, you have 2.5 hours to climb up Muztor-II Pass.

To the west of the Padysha-Ata river whose basin is distinguished by several high peak exceeding 4200 m, some peaks still reach 4000 m. That is particularly the case of the flowing Chanach River basin to the south (Syr Darya basin) as distinguished from the east flowing river Chanach (the Chatkal basin). It is not uncommon that rivers shared the same pass as the same name as well as those of the pass itself. Much of the dowstream of the Chanach River is a dry bed, because the river is largely used for crop irrigation in the Ferghana Valley. The Chanach basin (south) starts from the main ridge of the mountains of Chatkal, where altitudes reach up to 4100 m, and extends over 40 km on a narrow strip Valley (3-6 km) to the region Southeast (Ferghana valley). As basins of neighboring rivers, Chanach presents a wide variety of rocks and diverse geology. In the top half of the valley is limestone, down they are solidified sandstones and conglomerates. About a third of the watershed is occupied by outcrops of rocks and landslides areas. Only a small part of the basin is truly wooded, the rest of the region is rather covered by herbaceous vegetation especially on the lower river and stony slopes of the upper reaches of the river.

The trail goes up the valley Chanach is very convenient, even if it is particularly long from downstream in the plain, with the possibility of partially back into the vehicle on the dirt track to the last villages. Beyond the route the trail climbs and sometimes meanders among chaos. It was only on the upper course of the river at altitude, that we can found small snowfields. About 3 km after the trail splits into two branches: the path to the left leads to the pass Karaterek, right this leads to Chanach pass.

The pass of Chanach (3100 m, 1A listing) can reach the two rivers of the same name (which has already been mentioned). On the way down the side of the Chatkal basin, first found crawling bushes and shrubs along the slopes and the first trees, vegetation contrasts with the drier southern slope. The descent is steep then gradually softened, with occasional snow fields and snow bridges over the river. Huge boulders were scattered here and there in the bed of the river and valley. Above the limestone terrain are dizzying and sharp teeth. Lowest it appear solidified sandstone, forming bizarre shapes from the erosion of time. Everything is tormented as the rocky relief gives to the valley a wild and picturesque appearance.

Then the valley becomes narrower, wider space remains on the gentle slopes of the southern slope covered with beautiful meadows, great place for summer pasture for the many herds of sheep. The path runs along the valley floor, occasionally bordering cliffs, or skirting the foothills from the top. On the slopes there are hundreds of animal paths, goats and other livestock, and almost all cattle, sheep and goats have grazed the vegetation. All of this contrasts sharply with the bottom of the valley, which is extensively invaded by lush vegetation of trees. Soon the Chanach river reaches the Chatkal Valley.

The second pass over the Chanach River (south) leads to the basin of the Karaterek River, which flows into the Chatkal almost parallel to the Chanach River (west). The altitude of Karaterek pass is 3488 m, it is listed in difficulty 1A. The Karaterek Valley is very similar to that just a little north of Chanach (east river): steep slopes on the north side, a little more gentle slopes to the south, and left tributaries constituting the essential bulk of the water system.

The Chanach West Valley that we have just described is the most central region of the Chatkal Mountains. It is characterized by high mountains roughness that have a very important difference in height between the low and high areas over a short distance, a large heterogeneity of relative heights regardless of the absolute heights. The average height of the peak is 3500 meters. However, the height reached peaks, 4236 m near the Chanach river, is only 3200 meters upstream of Kasan-say Akhangaran and rivers.

The main local river watersheds are perpendicular to the direction of the main Chatkal ridge. A very high lateral spur (over 4300 m) distinguish watersheds of Ala-Buka river and Terek-say river, they are overcome by a whole series of peaks between 3500 m and 4000 m most of the time. At the southern tip of this ridge lies the Karakyr mountain (3929 m), where begins a major tributary of the River Kasan-say, the Uryukty (Oryukty on the map). It should be noted here that all the rivers that begin on the southern side of the range of Chatkal, from the river Chanach to the river Chapchama, come flocking to the Kasan-say River. This is why it is necessary to say a few words about this Kasan-say River. It begins at the articulation of Chatkal Mountains (south-west) and Kuramin (south), but unlike most of the major rivers, flowing either parallel to the main ridge or perpendicular, the Kasan-say itself flows from west to east and then downstream to the southeast and south gradually to reach the Ferghana irrigation area.

In Kasan-say River valley between the mouth of the Alabuki (Ala-Buka) and Uryukty (Oryukty) was constructed in 1947 downstream on the valley plains, the tank of Ortotokoïskoe (from Kasan-say). It is also about the same time that people built along the same river a road to Chapchama Pass allowing access to the Chatkal Valley. On this route often pass trucks and passenger buses. And due to this road, the mouths of all the Kasan-say tributaries can be easily reached. In this area of the range of Chatkal between Karaterek and Chapchama rivers, passes are of "modest elevation": Ak-Tash (3011 m 1A), the Kanysh-Kiya (3089 m, 1A), the Kanysh-Tor (3287 m, 1A), the Tullay-Berdy, the Tiuz-Ashuu (3470 m, 1A), the Kochkor-Ata (3275 m, 1A) and finally the Chapchama (2808 m).

The Alabuka River (left tributary) flows into Kasan-say, 1.8 km downstream of Ortotokoïskoe tank. In the central part of the valley, on the right bank, in the basin of the rivers Ak- Baltyrkan-say and Kum-Bel-say is the Ak-Baltyrkan lake with an area of 0.1 km². According to geologists, it was formed as a result of karst phenomena:

erosion forming goufres, fillings with partial collapses. The blue color waters of the lake will then join the Ala-Buka River from and underground network. In the watershed Ala-Buka there many underground sources and resurgences.

The valley of the Ala-Buka River is particularly interesting for hikers due to the presence of old minerals mines on the heights of the mountain Misken (3327), along the trail up to the Chanach River Valley (by the valley of the Karaganty-say and Misken 3327). There is also another path via the valley of Chalchi-say towards the Uryukty, its following left tributary of Kasan-say.

The rivers Uryukty (Oryukty) and Kainsu have their sources on the southern foothills of the Chatkal, away from the main ridge, so we limit ourselves to mention it in this guide without going into detail.

The Kasan-say river as sizeable river approaches the main crest of Chatkal, but its left tributaries tend to decrease steadily in length along the watershed, heading west. If the length of the Terek River reached almost 25-27 km, the length of the river Chapchama (along the road pass of the same name) is only 4 to 4,5 km. The vast majority of rivers comes from gentle relief on their headwaters, with only very few visible outcrops.

Many passes of this part of Chatkal are used by sheperds for transhumance between the Ferghana Valley (winter pasture) and Chatkal valley (summer pasture). It is therefore not surprising that passes are easy to access. So, up the valley of the Terek river to its source we pass the Ak-Tash Pass 3011 meters (1A) to join the Kara-Terek River in the Chatkal basin. In addition there is also the Kanysh-Kiya pass (3089 m, 1A) which connects the Terek valley and the Kanysh-Kiya-say river. The last two valleys are also connected by the pass of Kanyshtor (3287 m, 1A), which is also called Kachal-Tor. Valleys of the same name are connected on both sides of the range of Chatkal, for example by Tullay-Berdy pass between the two valleys north and south Tullay-Berdy-say, or the Tiuz-Ashu pass (3470 m, 1A) between the two valleys north and south Tiuz-Ashu-say.

When we go up the Kasan-say valley to the mouth of Zen-say (Zek-say on the map) and upstream via the foothills of the Kochkor-Ata valley trail crosses the ridge by Kochkor-Ata pass (3275 m) towards the Chatkal Valley. A similar path in the same valley follows a upper right tributary and crosses the ridge by an unnamed pass to the Chatkal.

A road along the Kasan-say then rises towards the main Chatkal ridge and achieves to reach the Chapchama Pass (2808 m), and descends to the Chatkal River Valley.

A.7.4. The south-western part of the range of Chatkal

Mapping 100,000 th: k42-092, k42-093, k42-104, k42-105; 200,000 th: k42-22, k42-23, k42-28, k42-29

The western Chatkal is a mountainous region closest to Tashkent city, this part is in fact now almost entirely in Uzbekistan, only the northernmost and easternmost parts are in actual Kyrgyzstan. The southwestern part of the range of Chatkal from the Arashan valley is named Ak-Too ("white mountain"), probably due to the gray color of the rocks of the ridge (syenite-diorite, plutonic rocks), unlike the red rocks of the upper part of the Arashan valley. The main ridge circumscribing the basins of rivers Akhangaran to the south and Akbulak on the north, and the same (about 30 km) it borders the northwest plateau of Angren. The majority of rocks are of granitic type. The south side of the ridge are generally gentle slopes. Summits rise above the snowline, but hardly exceed 4000 m. Not very well divided, these summits in some places are almost even smoothed. In some places along the ridge, in summer you can still see snow fields that clings to the slopes on the shaded platform and bowls of small valleys.

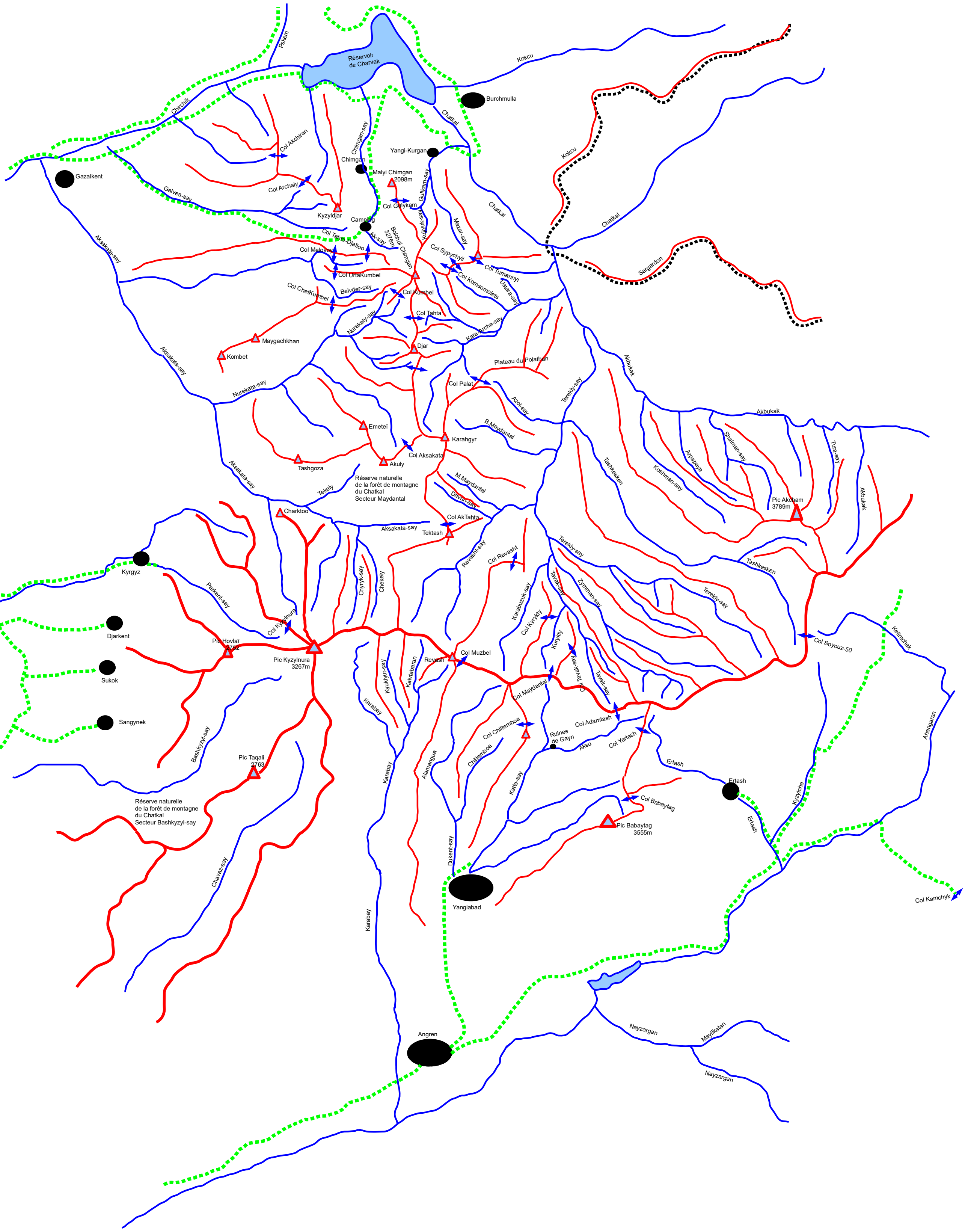
Southeast of Ertash River (or Yertash), an offshoot of the southern range of the Chatkal form the Babaytag Peak (3555 m, just north of the city of Angren), which is also called Babaj-Ata. The mountain forms the crest separation between Ahangaran basin and tributaries of the Chatkal, firstly of North orientation, then who turns to the west, upon a distance of 25 km, while the average height is 3200 m. The watershed ends at Peak Kyzylnura (3533 m or 3267 m on the map) just east of Tashkent.

Our description of alpine hiking trails in the western part of the Chatkal starts at Angren, accessible by suburb trains from Tashkent or bus.

The valley of Angren has long been famous for its economic prosperity. As the name suggests, its prosperity comes from the mining of metals (Angren is a variation of the word "Ahangaran" meaning "blacksmith"). The oldest mines can still see by the huge pile of rock, slag mountains, and to some extent a consequence of its industrious past, the almost total absence of woody vegetation on the slopes of the valley, although at other older historical periods, vegetation was reasonably powerful and rich.

The Angren-Kokand road gradually rises on the right bank of the river Ahangaran, through a number of villages and approaches a catering establishment and tea house. Not far away is the mouth of a major tributary of the Ahangaran, the Ertash river. Above the gorge of the river is located the eponymous village of Ertash, downstream from the village is the mouth of a small tributary the Kyzylcha. A dirt track goes up on the heights of the Kyzylcha valley to the weather station of Kyzylcha.

Above the village of Ertash, the mountain becomes wilder. The main rocks that form the gorges are granites and porphyries, and often it hides powerful sedimentary layers. At 4-5 km from the village, the river separates and on a right tributary a path of 10-12 km starts from a spur to the main Chatkal ridge (direction Northwest). In the upper part of the valley the environment becomes colder. After reaching the pass on the range of Chatkal, we arrive at the top of the sources of Aksu River (Dukent-say basin) and it was not only after a second ascent of the Adamtash pass (2695 m) that one reaches the basin of the river Akbulak. Although the altitude of the pass is well below the average height of the pass on the range of Chatkal, access is difficult in a chaotic terrain: it is a succession of crossing of small torrents hosted in almost impassable gorges or fordable but with great difficulty.


Pskem
Réservoir
de Charvak
Kokcu
Burchmulla
Chirchik
Col Akchiran
Chimgan-say
Chimgan
Yangi-Kurgan
Chatkal
Kokcu
Gazalkent
Malyi Chimgan
2098m
Col Archaly
Galvea-say
Gulikam-say
Col Gulykam
Kyzyldjar
Camping
Chatkal
Chatkal
Mazar-say
Kuiyuk-say
Col Tahta-Djaïloo
Ak-say
Bolchoï Chimgan
3276m
Aksakata-say
Col Melovoy
Col Sypychyii
Col Tumannyi
Sargardon
Col UrtaKumbel
Col Komsomolets
Ustara-say
Col ChetKumbel
Belvder-say
Col Kumbel
Col Tahta
Nurekaty-say
Kara-Archa-say
Maygachkhan
Djar
Kombet
Plateau du Polathan
Aksakata-say
Akbukak
Col Palat
Terekly-say
Nurekata-say
Azol-say
Akbukak
B.Maydantal
Shalman-say
Emeteï
Karahgyr
Tura-say
Arpapaya
Tashkesken
Koshman-say
Col Aksakata
Tashgoza
Akuly
Akbukak
Aksakata-say
Réserve naturelle
de la forêt de montagne
du Chatkal
Secteur Maydantal
M.Maydantal
Pic Akcham
3789m
Tekely
Davan-say
Charktoo
Col AkTahta
Aksakata-say
Tektash
Terekly-say
Revasht-say
Col Revasht
Tashkesken
Kyrgyz
Chyryk-say
Chekely
Tavak-say
Zymman-say
Terekly-say
Parkent
Parkent-say
Karabuzuk-say
Djarkent
Col Kyzylnura
Col Kyrykty
Kelinchek
Col Soyouz-50
Pic Hovlaï
2752
Kurykty
Pic Kyzylnura
3267m
Col Muzbel
Revash
Kyuklyur-say
Kalvtabaran
Col Tavak-say
Sukok
Tavak-say
Col Maydantal
Karabay
Sangynek
Col Chiltemboa
Ruines
de Gayn
Col Adamtash
Ahangaran
Bashkyzyl-say
Aksu
Col Yertash
Chiltemboa
Pic Taqali
2763
Ertash
Karabay
Alamangua
Katta-say
Ertash
Kyzylcha
Réserve naturelle
de la forêt de montagne
du Chatkal
Secteur Bashkyzyl-say
Col Babaytag
Pic Babaytag
3555m
Ertash
Dukent-say
Chavaz-say
Yangiabad
Col Kamchyk
Karabay
Nayzargan
Mayilkatan
Angren
Nayzargan

Orographic scheme of the Southwestern part of the Chatkal range

For the reaching of Adamtash pass, there is another path along Dukent-say valley. Returning to Angren, take the northern route that leads to the mountain resort Yangiabad (18 km by road from Angren). It is a village location of a campsite, and the Regional Council for tourism and excursions of Tashkent (Soviet era). The trail to climb to the pass Adamtash begins on Katta-say River (a left tributary of the Dukent-say), upstream there one discover the ruins of the ancient village of Gayn. The trail follows the upper slopes of the left bank of the river, sometimes down to reach the water. We cross several small tributaries along the way.

At the confluence of Katta-say river and the Aksu River, we encounter the ruins of a hunting lodge. Here in a nearby clearing, it is a good camp for the night. From the pasture to the Adamtash pass remains about 15 km walk. The Aksu valley looks like a rather narrow valley, often flooded and strewn with rocks of different sizes streaked by tree roots. One will have to ford several times the river to bypass a rocky cliff overhang above the right bank. Beyond the walking becomes quiet in a smooth pasture (jailoo), where the first pass is already visible. The trail runs along the slopes, through this pass, to achieve in the basin of the river Ertash and then merges with the path from this Ertash valley (described just before), turns sharply left (direction of the rise) crosses through the upper part of the Aksu valley and rises steeply to the Adamtash pass (2693 m, 1B). For the descent, after 10 km along the river Tavak-say, the trail turns to the Northwest to go up to the Tavak-say pass (2600 m) and immediately began a brief descent to the valley of the River Kurykty (always toward Northwest direction). But after 1 km, the trail begins a continuous climb to reach the Kurykty pass (2600 m) and back down to the Karabuzuk-say River. Here there is a trail crossing: one path goes downstream of Karabuzuk-say valley, the other goes towards the northwest to reach the Revasht Pass (2550 m) and the river of the same name Revasht-say which also merged later with the Karabuzuk.

From here to Maydantal river basin (large and small, Bolchoi and Malinky) (15-17 km), it is necessary to perform successive crossings of buttresses, climbs and descents, crossing and wading of streams with higher altitude gain, which sometimes reaches 500 m. Once reached the Maydantal plateau, rivers therethrough dug deep canyons, usually almost impassable.

Since the Dukent-say river basin (to the south), the Maydantal plateau is also accessible through the pass of Muzbel (3053 m, 1B), this by going up the right tributary of Dukent-say, the Alamangua river. On its headwaters, the river carries traces of ancient glaciers, and on the crest in early summer, there may still be some snow ledges. The path of the pass Muzbel takes this common side ridge and above the valley of one of a rights tributaries of Akhangaran river, the Karabay.

We are here near a nature reserve created in 1947 with an area of 35,255 hectares, "The Nature Reserve of Chatkal mountain forest". Within its limits it consists of several separate sections, that of Bohkyzyl-say and that of Maydantal. In areas of Uchat, the Polathan, the Great and Small Maydantal valleys were established protected wildlife breeding sites.

The highest Peak of the Boshkyzyl-say area is the Peak Kyzylnura (3267 m) where on its southwestern slopes born the Boshkyzyl-say river (or Bashkyzyl-say on the map). The watershed area of the river is bordered by several mountains the Taqali Peak (2763 m), the Peak Kurgantash (2992 m), the Peak Hola or Hovlaï (2751 m), at the foot of which 1,000 m lower elevation is the Floodplain of Boshkyzyl-say.

The Kyzylnura peak has the appearance of a steep slope covered with small debris scree and rocky outcrops of red porphyry. Its eastern slope is a gentler slope covered with pasture. The Mountain Taqali stands on the watershed line between Boshkyzyl-say River (west) and Shavaz-say River (east) and it looks like the saddle of a pass. The Taqali is easy to distinguish even at a great distance. North of Boshkyzyl-say is the River Basin of Parkent-say (from the city name of Parkent).

The main river of the site Maydantal in the reserve is the Serkeli-say (Akbulak River Basin, apparently called Terekli-say on the map), which receives water from various tributaries: the Tavak-say, the Zymnan-say, the Terek-say, the Tashkesken (right), the Kara-Buzuk-say and Revash-say (left). These tributaries are very turbulent, their banks are steep and rocky. Their beds are rocks, gravel and rocks, waterfalls and erosion dug many pots.

The topography of the nature reserve and the special nature of soils formed a particularly interesting flora (over 600 species of herbaceous plants and 40 species of trees and shrubs) in which several varieties are endemic to the area of Chatkal and western Tien-Shan mountains. The Maydantal sector is vegetally of birch dominance, which can be found in all the valleys and the surrounding hills. Some birch groves are mixed with apple trees, poplars and Tal. On river's bank, grow blackberry bushes and on the wetlands slopes some plum-cherry. In the belt of Boshkyzyl-say area steppe grassland grows where one can find pistachio trees. In the scree and rocky slopes of river banks grow a local Asian white variety of hackberry.

In altitude, alpine area, area of steep cliffs, around the jagged peaks all are poor in vegetation. The fauna of the reserve is similar to other mountainous regions of Central Asia. The most common species are the wild boar and the ibex. Over the years, the deer population has increased in the reserve. In wooded areas and shrub one encounter bears and is just above in altitude an endemic variety of marmot, unique to Western Tien-Shan, named in the IUCN classification "Mamotta menzbieri". It is also often encounter stoats, hedgehogs, foxes, weasels, martens and badgers.

Among the birds, there is partridge of the mountains of Tien-Shan (partridge Daooria) and Snowcock (variety of Grand Tetras). There are many varieties of columbine (pigeons), closer to the water is preserved paradise flycatchers (long tail) and “Remezy”. There are also other birds as: hummingbirds, wagtails, orioles, woodpeckers, cuckoos and rocks nuthatches. In the highlands there are several species of raptors birds: griffins, vultures, black vultures, eagles, bearded dwarves and kestrels.

Among the reptiles are lizards of the desert (gologlaz), water snakes, a variety of viper snake near Moccasin (very poisonous). Among the fish are common Marinka (Latin name Schizothorax orientalis, red carp), trout, Turkestan catfish (silure), loach of the Amu Darya. The area of the reserve also includes some archaeological evidence of human activity: cave paintings and traces of mining activities in antiquity.

To get a better idea of the nature reserve, we advise you to visit the Museum. To visit this reserve, one must obtain a special permit entry. To reach the natural reserve route is very simple: just an hour and a half by bus from Tashkent to the town of Parkent at the central farm park office. North of the Kyzylnura massif the ridge of Chatkal practically ends with the silhouette of the Peak of Great Chimgan (Bolshoi Chimgan, 3276 m or 3309 m). We will describe the routes around this ridge and we will finish well on the information on the range of Chatkal.

One can take a regular bus from Tashkent to Burchmulla through several localities, Chirchik, Gazalkent and several other villages. It takes 2.5 hours to drive you to the base camp "Chimgan" where is the Regional Council of Tourism and excursions Tashkent (Soviet Era).

South of the base camp (Chimgan village) is one of the foothills of the Great Chimgan where an old mining trail leads to the pass of Tahta-Djaïlau (1988 m). The descent from the pass encounters a marbled river and the trail then climbs a dry ravine near the pass of Urta-Kumbel (Kumbel-I Pass on the map 1880 m). In half an hour, it is possible to climb to the pass and then down to the river Shovkonsu where is located a convenient platform camp on the left bank. Skirting the river, the trail reaches the pass of Chet-Kumbel (Kumbel-II Pass on the map, 1910 m) and goes down into the upper part of the Nurekaty-say valley. Here, there is no vegetation, and many scree.

One Chet-Kumbel pass (pass Kumbel-II on the map) one can continue to walk on left upon the ridge. After 50 minutes along the trail, you reach a cave drawings site. On the left there is indeed a group of stones with drawings of prehistoric man. On the beige background of these desert stones, dark marks are clearly visible, evoking silhouettes of goats, sheep, and other signs.

A little further on, the trail descends to the sources of Nurekaty-say River dried up in summer, crosses several foothills and steep slopes towards the Tahta pass (2800 m). This pass is ranked 1B through the valley of the Kara-Archa-say and achieves the small Maydantal plateau. Now we will describe the first route to this pass.

The trail crosses the Tahta pass, turn right, crosses the foothills to reach a fork of trails. From there, the path to the right goes along the ridge and the left goes down to the sources of Kara-Archa River. Gradually the valley narrows where appear here and there canyon waterfalls. To cross it, it is recommended to use a lifeline for rocky sections.

From the descent of the Tahta pass until the first confluence of the Kara-Archa-say river it takes about 2.5 hours. At the mouth, the gorge becomes even narrower, more wild. The stones have blocked the riverbed in some places, forming numerous waterfalls. After getting around a section of the right bank, too steep, you can go down on this right bank using a safety rope.

Further down the Kara-archa-say turns into a raging river with a very important altitude rank, the water rushes from one bank to the other, forcing to ford the river. After about 2.5 kilometers down the Kara-Archa-say takes the waters of its left tributary, the Aynovchukur-say, then the trail climbs the Komsomolets Pass (2900 m, 1B). After Aynovchukur-say tributary, downstream the Ustara-say river empties into the Kara-Archa-say. Between these two tributaries is a buttress on which the trail climbs to the Tumannyy pass(3000 m, 1B).

The steep descent of the mountain by passes Komsomolets and Sypychiy Tumannyy winds through the boulders, sometimes through snowfields on the left bank of the river. At 8-10 km the trail diverges: on the right, the path takes the course of Mazar-say to the village of Yangi-Kurgan, while on the left the trail bypasses the gorge of the river Gulikam-say by the valley of the Kujlyuk-say. From here to the tourist center "Chimgan"of the village, one must then cross the Gulikam pass, or translated: the “sand“ pass (1838m).

The Kara-archa River flows into the Akbulak, 5-6 km downstream from the mouth of the river Ustara-say. Near its mouth, hydrologists have sometimes stretched a rope that can be used to cross the river. Just above using the expansion of the river into several branches we can attempt the crossing of the Akbulak wading. However, when the waters of the river Akbulak are high fording is almost impossible.

There is another way to get to the Tahta pass and Akbulak, a little easier, but almost twice as long. The path continues south from the heights of the Great Chimgan, then on the ridge (on a flat ridge there is still a petroglyph site), which then descends. The trails here are numerous. But they merge together and become a dusty dirt road leading to the lowest Maydantal plateau. 500m away from the mountain called Mynzhilki, there is a triangulation tripod on a rise and from there the trail goes left towards the Polathan plateau. From the Tahta pass onto the top of the mountain Mynzhilki, there are about 11 km. The Polathan plateau is a tabular mountain (with its highest point at 2630 m) and whose edges are steep, cut by deep ravines. In rocks there is many caves where wild pigeons teem.

From the Mynzhilki mountain, the trail descends on the foothills in the Serkeli valley (or seemingly Terekli-say on the map). This foothill divides the two basins of the Great-Maydantal and Little-Maydantal rivers. At about 2 km from the river, the trail splits: at right it went to the river Davan-say (or Lavan-say on the map), which leads to Aktahta Pass (2280m) and further, the sources of the Aksakata river and at left goes down onto the Serkeli Valley (Terekli-say). On the main track of Serkeli (Terekli-say) there are many trails bordind and reaching the river, and some have been abandoned. It is necessary to choose the most convenient, now it seems to be the one most left (downhill direction).

During the crossing, the trail encounters the dark gorges of Azol-say and Kyzylalma-say rivers before reaching the foot of Polathan plateau. Along the plateau, the trail continues down then up a new foothill and after 10-12 km quietly reaches the left bank of the river Serkeli (or seemingly Terekli-say on the map). A little further down, in the wider part of the stream, one must ford the river. The ford is located near the forest houses of the Chatkal Nature Reserve. From here starts the dirt road, mostly desert, which leads to the village of Burchmulla.

If hikers were granted permission to visit the territory of the reserve, it is possible to make an interesting journey in the Tashkesken River Valley. For, it is necessary to return to the ford, back on the left bank of the river Serkeli (Terekli-say), to reach upstream the mouth of the river Tashkesken. Then you have to go up the valley of this river to penetrate completely on its upper course and achieve the Soyuz-50 pass (3800 m, 1B) which is the origins of the river and Valley of Kelimchek, opposite on the southern slope.

A.7.5. The Pskem Range

Mapping 50 000th, k42-071-1, k42-071-2, k42-071-2, k42-071-4; 100 000th, k42-070, k42-071, k42-081, k42-082, k42-093 200 000 th k42-17, k42-18, k42-23.

The crest of Pskem is a terminal chains of the Western Tien-Shan. It's a sister of other mountain ranges such as Ugam, Chatkal and the Sandalash. Part of its foothills is in Uzbekistan. The Pskem detaches from the most powerful main ridge of the Talas Ala-Too at the height of the Shilibili river valley (north side of the valley). It is also known by its local name, Muzbel. At the interface of two mountain ranges, it is also circumscribed by the hydrological basins of Chakmak river, a tributary of the Sandalash river, himself a right tributary of Shavur-say.

Pskem range stretches from north-east to south-west over 120 km away. It is the dividing line of the watershed Pskem river, on the one hand, and rivers Sandalash, Chatkal and Cox, on the other. The ridge is of equal altitude, high throughout its length, its height is just reduced to the southwest. To name a few major peaks, one has: the Beshtor - 4299 m (the highest point in the range), the Aktyuyaulgen (4224 m), the Tavalgan (3888 m) and the Piazak (3718 m).

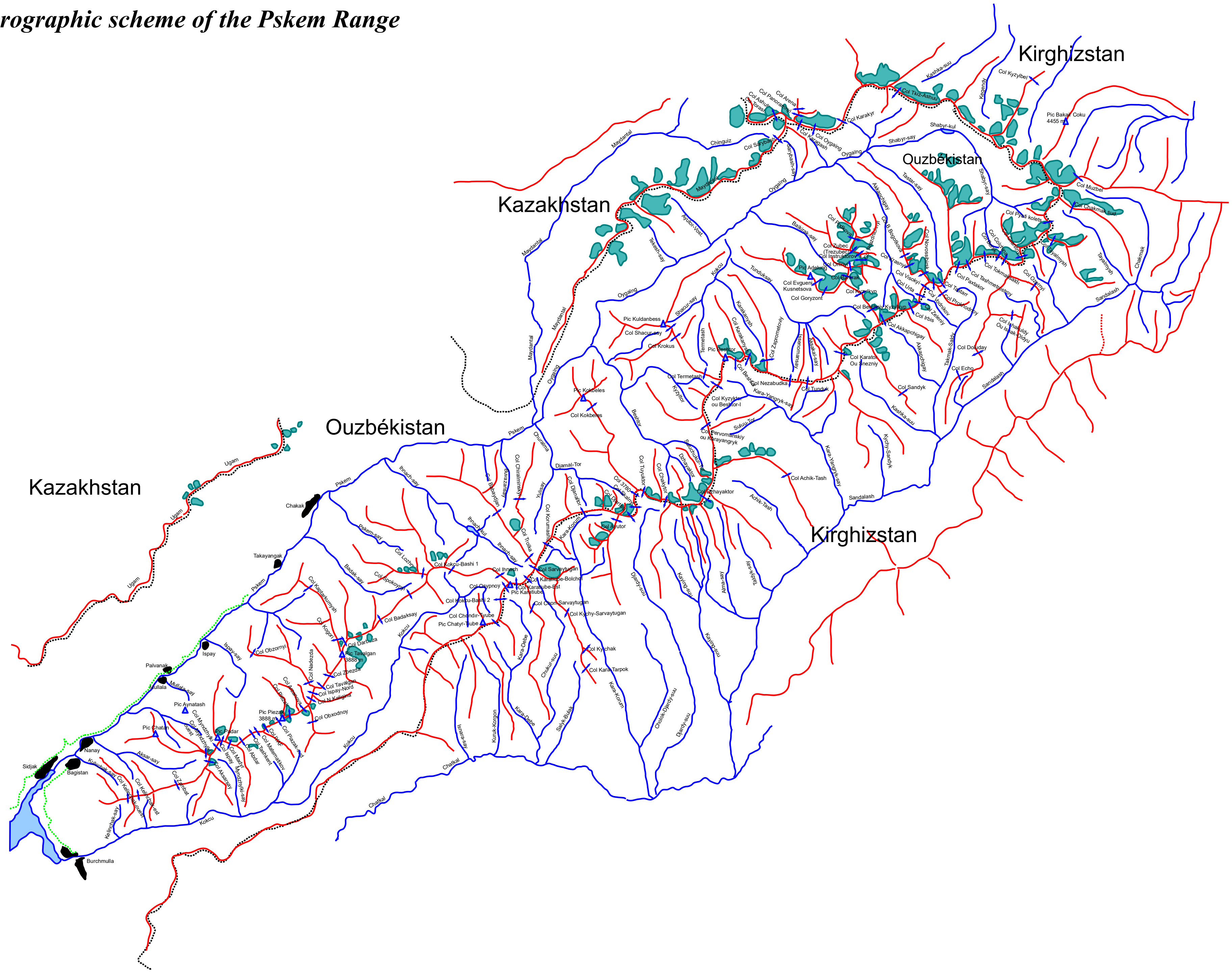
We access mainly by road to the range by Gorge Burchmulla (Uzbekistan) and the villages of Bogustan and Nanay. One the right bank of Pskem you climb for about 40 km to the village of Pskem. Along the Pksem valley several other villages are situated on both banks. There are several pedestrian bridges to access the villages on the left bank. These bridges are located at the level of particular villages, Karabulak, Mullaloo, Ispa and Tepar. The main road crosses the river Pskem on solid road bridges, supporting trucks.

The road ends just above the village of Pskem, and here starts a wide path. This follows the Pskem Valley on more than 25 kilometers by successive bridges spanning the various right tributaries of the river. We then reached the confluence where the Pskem separates into two rivers the Maydantal and the Oygaing (close to the Kazakh border). At the confluence of the two rivers there is a weather station "Karangitugay" (about 1450m above sea level).

It is then goes up the Oygaing along the path of its right bank. It is possible to cross up the tributary, the Beshtor (1700m) on the left bank, but fording the river here is rather dangerous. It is better to go on and on about 20 km from the weather station to reach the tributary of the Cox River (2100). Shortly before, the trail goes into the left bank of Oygaing crosses the Cox and still follows the same bank for 13 km to the bridge on the left tributary Akkapchigay (2450m) and 5 km up away from the confluence of the Tyuzashu (2594m), the Shavursay (2520, river suite of the Oygaing) and the Tastarsay (2590m). This is where the Oygaing rises.

About 12 km from the confluence of Shavursay, following this valley lies Lake Shavursay (2750m length of nearly 1.5 km, width of 700 m). From this huge rock blocking resulted the lake. And it takes about half an hour to overcome this natural obstacle. On the south shore of Lake cliffs are steep, so it is more convenient to go through the North Shore, consisting of ramshackle rock, provided good slope to reach the head of the lake. The lake water is blue-green in the sun and becomes almost black in shaded area. On the passage of the obstruction one often found along the shore dead wood. Half-length of the crossing, you have to ford a tributary, the river comes from the watershed line on the range of the Talas Ala-Too mountains between the two passes of Dustlik-I and Dustlik- II.

Orographic scheme of the Pskem Range


Kirghizstan
Kazakhstan
Ouzbékistan
Kazakhstan
Ouzbékistan
Kirghizstan
Col Kyzylbel
Pic Bakair Coku 4455 m
Kashka-suu
Kerkendy
Col Tuz-Ashuu
Col Karakyr
Shabyr-kul
Shabyr-say
Col Muzbel
Col Chakmak-suu
Col Pyzall koleis
Col Arena
Col Panorama
Col Ashuu
Col Toraz
Col Oygaing
Col Karagash
Col Sarybel
Chinguiz
Oygaing
Maydantal
Ayutor-Vost
Takesh-say
Maydantal
Oygaing
Tastar-say
Shabyr-say
Akbulak
Chakmak
Tayalmysh
Sandalash
Col Zubec (Trezubec)
Col Instruktorov
Col Adelung
Col Evgueni Kusnetsova
Col Goryzont
Col Bakhai
Col Kyzylkyp
Col Beshtor
Col Akkapchigay
Col Irbis
Col Karator ou Snezniy
Col Sandyk
Col Dolloday
Col Echo
Col Tashmetov
Col Paxtakor
Col Tokmak
Col Ozerniy
Col Isfakuldy
Tundyksay
Karakamysh
Pic Kuldanbess
Col Shacur-say
Col Krokus
Shacur-say
Termetash
Pic Beshtor
Col Zaprometoviy
Col Termetash
Col Nezabudka
Col Tunduk
Col Kyzykty ou Beshtor-I
Kara-Yangyk-say
Kashka-suu
Kara-Yangyk-say
Kychy-Sandyk
Sandalash
Col Achik-Tash
Achik-Tash
Col Pervomaiskiy ou Karayangryk
Sulu-Tor
Pic Kokbeles
Col Kokbeles
Beshtor
Pskem
Chunalma
Djamal-Tor
Col Tuyuktor
Col Chakylor
Col Dzhayaktor
Dzhayaktor
Col Avtor
Col Djamalter
Col Koruimash
Kara-Koruim
Col Chiralmirskiy
Col Bozaryuk
Yulusay
Ihnach-say
Ihnachkul
Col Troika
Col Lozny
Col Kokcu-Bashi 1
Col Ihnach
Col Sarvaytugan
Col Karantube-Bolchoi
Col Karantube-Est
Pic Karantube
Col Oyypnoy
Col Kokcu-Bashi 2
Col Chondir-Tyube
Pic Chatyr-Tiube
Col Chon-Sarvaytugan
Col Kychy-Sarvaytugan
Col Kychak
Col Kara-Tarpok
Kara-Korum
Djardy-suu
Kayindy-suu
Kayindy-suu
Chololi-Djardy-suu
Djardy-suu
Salyk-Bulak
Chukur-suu
Kara-Debe
Kara-Debe
Kurulk-Korgon
Isnara-say
Chatkal
Chatkal
Pskem-say
Badak-say
Col Spokoyniy
Col Badaksay
Kokcu
Pskem
Chakak
Takayangak
Pskem
Ugam
Ugam
Ugam
Ugam
Col Kaptarkumysh
Col Kogort
Col Darbaza
Pic Tavalgan 3888 m
Col Zvezda
Col Tavalgan
Col Ispay-Nord
Col N.Kaliguina
Col Obxodnoy
Col Obzornyi
Col Nadezda
Ispay-say
Ispay
Palvanak
Mullala
Mullala-say
Pic Aynatash
Pic Chatan
Pic Piezak 3888 m
Col Piezak-sud
Pic Padar
Col Myndzhylki
Col Ispay
Col Abdar
Col Matematikov
Col Tashkent
Aksar-say
Col Zamba
Col Kelintchak
Kelintchak-say
Kokcu
Sidjak
Nanay
Bagistan
Burchmulla

Above one is resumed the thread in the valley, it is then formed by various branches of the river. It it also succeeds numerous alluvial deposits trash. The river here stretches over a length of 2 km and a width of 300 m and the entire valley is covered with small islands made of thick grass and flowers. It is a real swampy colorful carpet where wind several branches of Shavursay. A left tributary flowing into the river nearby, and its source is in the glaciers away from the main ridge of Pskem at the foot of a high peak at 4359m altitude.

6 km above the lake Shavursay, the river receives a right tributary at 2990 m above sea level, where higher it is powered by smelt water of three glaciers. Going up this tributary other 7 km (north) we reach the glacier cirque behind fusion flow. In this circus, to the south is the Prisklonovoye glacier (1.7 km long), with a melting lake at its foot (3900), very close to the main ridge of the range of Talas Ala-Too (4200m). Along the lake and leaving the glacier on the right (in the direction of the rise), a poorly marked trail takes you into the Bakair pass (4119m). It's sometimes disappears under the snow. To the right of the pass, on the ridge at 4211 m, we reach the top of the Shilibili River basin.

If you continue along the main valley of Shavursay, 4 km you come to the merger of three rivers from left to right, respectively, the Tastar, the Takmaksaldy and the Ishakuldy.

Let's start by describing the most right tributary, the Ishakuldy. 4 km and 6 km from its mouth (depending on the chosen arm) is its source. The source is located at the top right of the glacier Ishakuldy Prisklonovoye, with a length of 1.4 km, and almost as wide. This circus can also reach the crest of the Talas Ala-Too and beyond the Shilibili basin. In the center of the eastern part of the circus, you reach the crest of Pskem almost where it joins that of the Talas Ala-Too. On the descent on the other side you reach the Cakmak glacier. Along the ridge to the south-east, we can also reach the upper reaches of the river Tayalmysh. The mountains in this location also takes the name of Muzbel at the junction of the two chains.

To the left of the Ishakuldy, from the largest glacier in the Shavursaya river basin starts the difficult valley of Kalesnik glacier. This rises to 4000 m and is bordered to the south by the headwaters of the ridge line of Tayalmysh and Ishakuldy, both tributaries of Sandalash. These rivers of the southern slope come from a vast network of almost inaccessible torrents. The main east-west ridge has a length of about 8 km. Most of the passes of the regions have not been taken, it is difficult to give a precise description of these high mountain routes.

On the southeast slope of the Pskem ridge (Kyrgyz side), the main source of Tayalmysh begins in a cooler circus 1.5 km away. Just below the terminal moraine of the glacier there is a trail through the Tayalmysh valley to that of Chong-Ishakuldy river. Therefore, it is possible to bypass the high valley of Kalesnik by Ishakuldy and after by the high valley of Tayalmysh. We only met three glaciers. The largest of them (1.5 km long, left) feeds the main flow of Tayalmysh. This glacier descends from 4090m to 3550 m from an unnamed peak (4120 m). At the foot you reach the path that takes the glacial valley giving rise to the right tributary of the River Tayalmysh. This path allows the passage of Tayalmysh Valley to Chong-Ishakuldy Valley (southwest general direction). It crosses the wide upper basin of the various tributaries of the Ishakuldy and then leads to the Ishakuldy pass itself (3562 m, 1A rating). The descent from the pass covers about 12-13 km in distance through the side of Dolubay and lower to the shores of Takmaksaldy.

To reach the high valley of Takmaksaldy one can also follow a shorter path from the Shavursaya Valley, through the Takmaksaldy-East Pass (4100 m). On the north side of Pskem, it is indeed the central tributary of the source of Shavursaya (also called Takmaksaldy, same name but north and south side of the ridge). It is fed by a glacial cirque with a length of about 1.3 km, starting from 3400 m up to 3810 m. On the way the glacier surface is quite flat, without significant crevasse. The end of the course to the Takmaksaldy-East Pass (4100m, 1B) have certain abruptness. The descent on the south side of the Pskem ridge is steep in the first part, but the slope gradually decreases. On the way there is also, on the left, cirque glaciers giving all the waters of the Takmaksaldy River (Sandalash basin).

On the north side of the ridge of Pskem is also further east of Takmaksaldy-East Pass (4100 m) another passage by a small glacier rising to a height of 3860 m. This pass has not yet been explored. We also have no information on the most left tributary of Shavursaya, leading to a vast glacier with regular slopes and dominated by a peak at 4143 m.

Now describe Tastarsay Valley. Here begins the Pakhtakor glacier, close to its terminal tongue above it expands, becoming quite a circus. The climb of the glacier leads to the upper source of Takmaksaldy (the Sandalash basin) by switching to the other side of Pskem.

The Tastarsay River is a tributary of the Oygaing. The Tastarsay basin extends between two vast northern spurs of the range of Pskem. All its major tributaries are on both sides and come from various circuses and hanging glaciers. However, the main glacier lies on north slope in the valley. Its terminal tongue is at an altitude of 3530 m. It has a length of 2.8 km and is located in a vast and almost vertical wall of 500 meters on the left (in the upstream direction). The trail follows the crest of a lateral moraine and after a final steep slope towards the Tastar pass (3650m, IB). One some places, snow can still be present, but the saddle of the pass is still clearly visible. The descent on the other side, also leads to one of the sources of Takmaksaldy. First we cross some snow fields, all in an extensive winding course of 6-7 km, to reach the confluence of Takmaksaldy. Where the rivers converge, one is joined the trail of the Chatyrtash side (Takmaksaldy pass). From here, the trail descends in a “stuffed” way along the Dolubay river side (about 8 km) to reach the junction with the Ishakuldy Pass Trail.

Always parallel to the Tastarsay Valley is another tributary of Oygaing the Akkapchigay. In the basin of the Akkapchigay river, there are 17 glaciers with a total area of 8.8 square kilometers. The most important of them are confined to the north on the ridge of Pskem in two main glacial cirques. One of them has a glacier with a length of 1.8 kilometers facing northeast. At its highest point - 3900 m, we reach the ridge leading to Takmaksaldy right upper tributary on the other side.

The left source of Akkapchigay leads after 2.5 km of climb to the pass Akkapchigay. The trail follows the main valley to the south, higher we must come to the tongue of the South Akkapchigay glacier (length - 2 km, the lowest - 3400 m, the highest - 3800 m). The trail starts to the left and joined the snow-covered slopes of Akkapchigay Pass (3650 m, IB).

But let us back on the northern slope, upstream of the Akkapchigay (the Oygaing Basin). From the main valley, a left tributary goes down that we can follow. Before reaching the terminal moraine of a large glacier, the trail climbs up the North Ridge of the northern spur of Pskem. He joins an anonymous pass of a height of about 4000 m. This allows you to switch to the top onto the Kyzyltor river valley.

The Akkapchigay pass is on the crest of a major Pskem orographic node, first by the separation of the waters of upper basins of the Cox and the upper stream of Akkapchigay and by the junction between the main Pskem crest and a powerful and wide spur headed north. The latter has indeed some major summits of Pskem range, at maximum altitude of 4387m. Within it the little valley of the River Barkraksay will not be described here. The next valley beyond Barkraksay is that of the main left tributary of the Oygaing - Cox river - near where at his mouth let us remind that there is a weather station. Cox River basin is of particular interest to hydrologists, glaciologists and also for tourists. All mountain rivers has high flow stability there, contrary to what is generally found in the Tien-Shan in the usual diurnal variation of melt water. The most interesting feature of the watershed is characterized by a wide distribution of coarse alluvial materials forming true slope. Sometimes these banks cover several hundred meters. In two valleys of the Cox basin there are also five small lakes formed originally by natural embankments. Finally, the passages of the valley bottom glaciers is difficult.

We now describe the basin of rivers Cox-Tunduksay. The description will follow, from the headwaters of the rivers, the enumeration of the right to the left banks on side valleys, and in the direction of descent (in the downstream direction). So back to the starting point of the trail at the weather station on the right bank of the river Cox (Cox-Oygaing confluence). A first trail follows the right bank, but almost immediately, Cox valley narrows to follow a canyon of a relatively small extension. 4 km from the meteorological station, the Cox River joins its largest right tributary, the Tunduksay river. The valley remains as follows literally fulfilled by rocks. No passage seems possible in this narrow gorge where entangled themselves thousands of boulders. So to go up the river Tunduksay, either you take the starting point of the weather station or cut to join another path to the east, which at first follows the line of the watershed of the rivers Barkraksay and Tunduksay then goes down on the flanks of the Tunduksay valley. During the descent it can be seen on the opposite side a series of thrusts “tablecloths” northeast oriented. The lowest of them reaches to a height of 3000 m.

Going down to the Tunduksay river, we reach the trail and again climbs through 2.5-3 km to the merger of three successive torrents (3000 m): the Isenomana (left), the Aksakay (middle) and finally the Kyzyltor (right). Taking the Kyzyltor Valley to the east, the trail leads through 10-11 km to an unnamed pass (3818 m), and beyond to higher Akkapchigay river side which flows into the Oygaing. The Kyzyltor comes from small glaciers rising to 3760 m. Other valleys also skew gradually heading south towards the crest of Pskem.

The first left tributary of Kyzyltor (encountered in the downhill direction) leads to a glacial cirque north up the altitude of 3920 meters. Rises above, the peak 4202 m. If one climbs into the rightmost Central Valley (in the upstream direction) one can reach by the crest of Pskem, a glacier area behind the Akkapchigay River (Sandalash watershed). This tributary comes from two glaciers of which one has an area of 2.4 km for a rise between 3360 m (bottom) and 3900 m (top). Further west of the ridge, is the upper Kashkasu (watershed Sandalash), on the opposite side.

Before joining the Kyzyltor River is another tributary to the left - the Karabastor coming from four small glaciers upstream. Almost all of these glaciers are placed on thrust sheets at an altitude of 3600-3800 m. The main glacier rises to 3900 meters. Given its length (about 1 km) and its vertical climb of about 500 m, glacier climb has some steep slopes. From there you can reach the main crest of Pskem leading to the top of the Kashkasu as well as Karayangryk river basin (most south-western watershed of Sandalash).

Let's talk briefly about the headwaters of Kashkasu. But first, we note that since the trail on Dolubay side (Takmaksaldy Valley), we are separated from by the Akkapchigay valley and the mountains of Sandyk. The downstream of the Kashkasu river is almost impassable from its headwaters to the confluence with the Sandalash. It is more convenient to access this southeastern side from the other Uzbek side on northwest. From the heights of Pskem the trail crosses the high valley in the middle. The trail follows the bank of the river, even sometimes taking part on the bedrock. The course track in this manner 4 km along the right tributary of the River Kashkasu. The watershed above Kashkasu begins with a glacier 2 km long. Hidden from the sun by a higher spur and of east orientation, it forms a narrow ribbon striped by longitudinal cracks and rises up to 4150 m (4099 points on the map). The glacier tongue has a very steep escarpment up to 15 m high, demonstrating the power of the glacier thrust. This is even more visible after the early season snow have disappeared.

Around this circus there are also other small hanging glaciers. All meltwater from various tributaries form the Kashkasu river. The main direction of these glaciers is practically north, but from the slopes of the Pskem crest there are two glaciers whose orientation is virtually to the south, and whose melting is more intense because of their orientation. On the right the mountain reaches an altitude of 4080 m.

We turn now to the tributary named Aksakay of the Tunduksay river. Following its headwaters you reach the Tunduk pass (3589 m, IB) by a glacier on the slopes sometimes steep. From there, passing on the other side to less than 6 km away is the left bank of Karayangryka. On the opposite side of Pskem, the river is also called Aksakay.

The left tributary of Tunduksay, the river Isenoman, is fed by two glacial cirques separated by a narrow buttress. Both glaciers are high at almost the same height, the west end is only 260 m below. The western glacier provides the main source of Isenoman.

To reach the other basin (south-west) of the Cox River, the trail leaves from the meteorological station, follows the right bank until the entrance Tunduksay Gorge. We cross the Tunduksay river on a bridge then one goes directly along the right bank of Cox, crossing several groves of birch. Above the valley widens and the river flows over a flat bottom, broken into several branches. Soon, the trail crosses the river and goes back to the merger of its two components (right - the Karakanysh, left - the Termetash). The two rivers are separated by a vast rocky buttress, with steep walls that go directly down to the water.

By following the left bank of Karakanysh one can reach in half an hour a small lake surrounded by a varied vegetation. Above, the trail crosses the river and 2 km after it presents a natural dam through which the water passes. Its passage is not easy even if the dam is dry. Indeed above and on both sides, the vertical cliffs have caused powerful scree. Another half hour away through the obstacle, and your eyes will discover the green-blue surface of a lake (300 m long and 100 m wide), which sharply contrasts with the rocks around of monotone coloring. Above the lake are also encountered a long line that blocks the valley again. Sometimes the obstacles raised to almost 250 m above the valley floor. There are a lot of dead wood brought upstream by avalanches. These barriers are still present along 4 km above the lake to reach the headwaters of Karakanysh. The blocks are still visible to the moraine above which rise the glaciers sources of the river.

The path to the Termetash pass is on the left bank. At 3.5 km from its mouth in the valley, there is a lake (size 100x50 m), reconstructed by draining of a nearby superior lake, a little smaller. On the slopes leading down to the lakes, there are varieties of creeping junipers. Then up we find the left side of a superior lake where flows the tributary Shasursay. The upstream water food of the lake is not visible because the runoff of Shasursay flows under the rocks. The Shasursay flows in a direct straight valley and particularly smooth, dotted here and there by the slope of the upper branches of side rivers. Continuing we reach a pass leading to the Beshtor River, it is classified 1B.

The route over the Termetash Valley is on the right bank. The river disappears almost immediately under the rocks, we must sometimes reach the rocky bottom of the gorge or evade it. The valley gradually thins. From both sidesof the valley, the rocky cliffs have caused steep scree. At 2 km upstream on the valley the trail goes straight to a lake. But let's start by getting us on the left (direction of the rise). A track still allows to rise to an altitude of 2700 m, reach the moraine of a glacier in the valley, whose tongue is 400 meters above.

Background valley under the Mount Beshtor, there are frozen waterfalls whose ribs reach a width of 2-3 m and heights of 200 m (vertical). All of the cascade develops about 500 m and fills the entire width of the valley. To overcome this ice climbing, in practice it must goes on the right edge of the glacier, we reach above the lower slopes of the two peaks of Beshtor. At this place the integrity of the main glacier was not preserved by the abruptness of the downstream slope. In its upper reaches there is no significant or noticeable fissure, but before reaching the part of the ridge to the east of Beshtor one is encountered a rimaye up to 2 m wide above the glacial cirque. Above the circus to reach the lowest part of the ridge between two rocks, one must go up often icy snow slopes of 50°, with a length of about 70 m. Above is reached the Beshtor pass (3800 m, 2B rating).

The reached pass is not the lowest in the glacial Termetash cirque but the pioneers climbers have adopted it because it is the most rational passage to reach the other side and the Karayangryka Valley.

The main runway rises above the left Temertash Valley. There are a few boulders interspersed with small snowfields and the valley flattens and scree are replaced by grassy slopes. To the left rises the Peak Beshtor (4299 m). The Temertash Valley reached a new fork. Before taking the south direction to the crest of Pskem, on the left another trail climbs to the pass Termetash (3100 m, 1A). It is located on the crest of a side spur of Pskem range. The main trail is also reaching above this ridge to the south. Then there was need to cross on the left a steep slope to get to pass Beshtor-1 (3800 m, 1B) and from there reach on the other side the descent to the top of the Karayangryk River (left arm). Since Beshtor-1 pass, the Sandalash valley is clearly visible. We see on this valley almost little trees and the space is often under the threat of winter snow ledges. On the descent the snow slope is steep, then the trail reaches the rubble of a moraine. It appears below the track leading to the Karayangryk river.

One can also reach the left branch of the High Karayangryk (a path leading to it). It is located on the south side of Pskem. The trail goes down a scree slope of 20° to 40°, and at an altitude of about 3400 m reaches several rocks and snowy corridors. One has to climb some of it almost to the crest with some brief slopes close to 60°. On the ridge there is many little passes formed of weathered rocks.

At an altitude of 2600 m, the Karayangryk meets the waters of Sulutor, its right tributary whose basin includes 6 glaciers (the largest at 2.1 km). At 2 km downstream is mouth of the left-tributary the Aksakoya. Further more and further down the river we reach the right track (west) to the pass Achiktashdavan (3412 m, 1A). On the other side starts the path leading to the Kashkasu basin (east). On this last one still we come right into the bed of the Kichiksandyk river. The lower part of Karayangryka is impracticable. On the right bank of the river, we reach the crest of another side spur of Pskem beyond which you reach the basin of the river Achik-Tash. In its middle part, two paths merge and allow instant crossing from Karayangryka Valley to that of Achik-Tash.

To become familiar with other major tributaries of the Oygaing, talk about the Beshtor river. The trail was on the main valley of Beshtor and crosses the river several times. The first right tributary of Beshtor called Kyzyltor-1 (as the next right tributary of Beshtor) can be used to reach a pass. It joins the upper basin of Shasursay (Cox basin) and rises sources of Kyzyltor-1 river. Tourists often visit the upper part of the valley since that of Cox.

If one goes up 6 - 7 km onto the Beshtor valley, we reach the mouth of Kyzyltor. The river Kyzyltor first heads toward the northeast and the watershed ridge with Shasursay, left component of Termetash. Then the Kyzyltor almost sudden a right angle to turn to the south-east and still diverges 5 km away in other direction. Here the stream to the right leads to the pass Beshtor-1. In the southern part of the circus of other Kyzyltor sources, under the summit elevation 3875 m, there is a small North-west glacier. Heading south we find other small glacial cirques roughly the same size (length 0.8 km), but at a slightly higher altitude. The path of the ridge separating the last two circuses is directly above the basin of the Karayangryk valley.

At 1km above this tributary of Kyzyltor, the trail takes on the right bank then passes through the Beshtor river toward a left tributary leading to the Kokbeles pass (2730 m, 1A) and then goes down to the Lower Churaalma river. The place is wild, dotted with birch groves, and little visited since Beshtor Valley. The trail often loses it way and one must make a lot of detours, but it is mainly found on the left bank of the valley, easily distinguishable by the presence of dark rocks. Returning in the Beshtor, we climb the nearly 10 km up before encountering its main tributaries. Particularly on the left bank, one approaches the Tuyuktor then again goes upstream on 2-3 km the Beshtor still divides into two branches, east the Sulukchukurtor borns, and south the Dzhayaktor river.

The first stream (Sulukchukurtor) separates in turn 4km after. The path to this fork is not easy: first we follow the sides of the rocky ridge on the right bank, then down into the water, and go up the left bank of a birch forest (2560 m). At this point it is easy to camp for a night. For the further upstream, we follow a steep rise, mainly along the right bank, and sometimes to the right and left, if either you do not or cannot want to use the rocky banks where snowbanks are present in the early season. When the valley widens, it rotates regularly to the south. Following the upper right tributary you can climb to the Pervomajskij pass (3600 m, 1B). When the snow is deep, the transition becomes very difficult. The high valley forms a rocky area where we distinguish a conspicuous and characteristic rock shaped like a "finger". You have to follow this direction and reach the slopes above a tilt up to 35°. The "finger" on the ridge is well worth a visit, at the foot of the pass Pervomajskij, 3660 m, difficulty quotation, 1B.

One top part of circus communicates with the other side on a right tributary of Karayangryka, the climb is often filled with snow. The "finger" of the rock circus constitutes a good direction guide to locate the climb path to the Pervomajskij pass, while on the lower slopes of the valley the trail is visible.

On the one hand, the origins of Karayangryk river can be reached from the heights of the terminal Sulukchukurtor circus (downhill on the upper reaches of the river Sulutor). But one the other hand, this access to the crest of Pskem at 3826 m may also lead to superior slopes the Achiktash river by the right of the Sulukchukurtor circus. Tourists can see on the sources of Sulukchukurtor a small glacier terminal (0.6 km long) at the altitude of 3800 m.

As mentioned above, after the Sulukchukurtor, the first right tributary of Beshtor, follows left the Dzhayaktor river. The confluence is located 1.5 km upstream. The tributary Dzhayaktor gets its water supply through three glaciers. All have a length ranging from 1 km to 1.3 km, but located at different heights. The rightmost glaciers rises to 4000 m, the leftmost is located 200 meters below. The further east glacier leads on the other side to the origins of Achiktash river, the other glaciers lead to higher Kurgantyube as well as its left tributary, the Almasay.

Here, on the southern slope of Pskem, the top circus of Kurgantyube has several Southern Exposure glaciers. The glacier Almasay is the smallest of them (0.5 km long) and all are located at the altitude 3850 m. The average elevation glacier reaches 3970 m, and on the right, the main Kurgantyube the power source is located at 4060 m.

Southwest of the river Kurgantyube one descends to the network of the Kainsu River, the last right tributary of the River Sandalash. There is a path that can reach this mountainous area. Another path a little further west leads to the Dzhartysu Valley. Directing practically on mountainside, the path crosses the three sources of Kurgantyube and gives access to the top of the Dzhartysu Valley.

Always up the valley of Beshtor, we now encounter 1.5 km above the Dzhayaktor the mouth of its left tributary, the Chakyrtor. The upper part of this Chakyrtor presents a small glacial cirque North-west exposure, 1.1 km long, with elevations of 3520 m (bottom) to 3880 m (top). The path through the crest of Pskem leads to the mountain called "Agaly-Too" (4218 m). The same place can also lead us towards the left tributary of Beshtor, the Tuyuktor valley, through the west by crossing a lateral spur of the Pskem crest. The main sources of Tuyuktor are fed by two glaciers.

Due to the steep slopes on the side of the most parts of Dzhartysu valley, a path is possible downstream on the heights of the left side down to 8-10 km before its mouth. The flow of the river Dzhartysu joined the Chatkal 10-11 km futher downstream from the mouth of Sandalash itself.

It is also above the upper valley of Dzhartysu which is reached on the other side of Pskem (Uzbekistan) the basin of the river Churaalma-say, which is the first left tributary of Pskem downstream of its confluence (Oygaing and Maydantal). From the mouth on the Pskem, a good trail goes up the right bank of the river Churaalma and another 3 km trail climbs towards the Terek-Kokbeles pass (towards the Beshtor basin). Above the river, Churaalma receives whole series of streams, and after 5 km upstream, one encounters a right tributary, the Dzhamaltor. It has its origin in the upper two circus glaciers. The path encountering the right glacier (3800 m altitude) leads to the Dzhartysu river, the path taking the left glacier reaches the sources of the river Kara-koram. The mountainous parts dominating both rivers are located on the main ridge of Pskem. There is the top of the Ayutor Mountain (4025 m). On the heights of Pskem crest, over the Kara-koram Valley are also located several passes giving access to the various tributaries of Dzhamaltor-say and Churaalma-say here called Yuly-say (or Yuldy-say). The upper Yuly-say basin (or Yuldy-say) forms the border with the sources of the river Ihnach (other side to the west), another tributary of Pskem and sources of the Karakoram River (south side of the basin and Chatkal).

The trail to the crest of Pskem above Yuly-say reaches the Korum-Ashu pass (3517 m or 3497 m on the map, 1B difficulty, Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan border). Before reaching the ridge, the trail winds along a steep slope (Uzbek side) and also drops steeply into the valley of the Kara-Korum (Kyrgyz side) and to the properly-said river at an altitude of about 2700 m. Downstream, the valley becomes more flatty. After 5-6 km downhill the track meets other trails leading to other side valleys on Kyrgyz side.

To visit the Ihnach valley starting from the Pskem valley, you take the road on the right bank of Pskem for 11-13 km that one leaves at the mouth of the Ihnach river, its left tributary (the mouth is 23 km downstream of Pskem-Oygaïng-Maydantal). The road that leads into, cross over the Pskem river, through a bridge at the village of the same name, near the mouth of a small river (the Pskem-say) a few kilometers before the mouth of the Ihnach. On the lower reaches of the Ihnach, the river gorges are narrow, and cut in depth the various conglomerate layers of Pskem valley. Access through this gorge is difficult, and even impossible at the top because of the brut force of the water. But there is an easier way up the valley via the valley of the River Semizsaz-say and pass of Kensaybel that can descend after on Ihnach. In the Ihnach valley grow many trees, including large beech forests and juniper. The road becomes difficult sometimes as narrow as steep. A 10 to 12 km upstream from the mouth of the valley, it widens into a flooded plain littered with trash.

At this location a natural dam in a tightening of the valley rises high enough (up to 150 m) and forms a powerful obstacle to the flow of the water. This resulted in the formation of a lake, having length of 500 m and a maximum width of 180 m. This natural reservoir forms a crater about 10 meters deep. Another lake is located immediately upstream whose function is to filter the water of the river, while also playing a blocking role. The lake waters are regenerated by groundwater. The surface of the upper lake is nearly three times higher (about 1.5 km in length, a width of more than 200 m). Three main rivers flow directly upstream of the lake, the central river is actually the Ihnach river, still called by locals the Kanych. The trail crosses the lake along its north shore to the main branch of the Ihnach. The rise in the path strewn with rounded pebbles is easier than before.

Woody vegetation soon disappears, giving way to alpine meadows and snowfields of the early season. From the upper Lake (2505 m) to the pass there are about 10 km away. The trail leading to the pass has many continuous passages on snowy slopes, but in general on the pass it lacks of snow, there is mainly clastic rocks. This is the Sarbay-Turgan pass (3594 m, 1B). The descent from the pass on the other side is not difficult. First we cross a granitic detritus zone, and then reached the snowfield source of Chukursu, a right tributary of Chatkal. After 5 km downhill from Chukursu can leave his wake, to join by another pass (Chong-Sarbay-Turgan) the Ihnach river basin.

As was said earlier, three major rivers flow into the lake of the Ihnach Valley. In the leftmost Valley, another lake is located 5 km upstream. This is another small dam lake stretched in width from 15 to 20 m and 150 m long. Above the path still continues 3km further to reach the right lateral Pskem ridge at a pass of 3252 m altitude. The trail continues to the south-east of the crest to reach the Koksu-Bashi-1 pass (3319 m, 1B) to the sources of Kokcu river. Here, the trail is sometimes disturbed by some boulders and steep slopes. One can climb on the main ridge along both adjacent circuses, giving birth of the tributary river Kokcu to another pass the Koksu-Bashi-P (3867 m, 1B).

On the way down the pass Koksu-Bashi-P, we cross the sources of Kara-dube river that also provides access to the pass of Chong-Sarbay-Turgan (3082 m, 1A) for the descent into the valley Chukursu. Below we also find the trail of Sarbay-Turgan pass which we have already spoken (3594 m). After the junction of the two tracks, the trail climbs the ridge immediately to the left and reaches the pass Kichik-Sarbay-Turgan (2782 m). From this ridge we reach the valley of the River Kara-Korum, the trail splits and one leg then goes up on the ridge. At the pass Cusal (kitchen, 2616 m) the trail continues south to the Kara-Turpak pass (2290 m) and then merges with another trail and headed along the eastern slope downstream of the Salyk-Bulak river, valley to the left of that of the Kara-Korum. The two paths of Kara-Korum and Salyk-Bulak goes down to the Chatkal, on a distance of about 6 km long.

At Southwest of pass Koksu-Bashi-I on Pskem ridge is the pass Piazak where people goes less frequently. Indeed its southern slopes dominate the high largely inaccessible Koksu valley on most of its course. In this area to the east of the Koksu Valley from Pskem Valley we can recommend access to the side Badaksay valley where there is a beautiful mountain lake.

Another site for Hiking is located in a neighboring valley near the Pskem village around which once stood a mine. The river, the village and the valley are called Kaptarkumish. The Kaptarkumish pass (2780 m) connects the valley to that of another small left tributary of Pskem. To access the heights of the various left tributaries of Pskem, tourists prefer to go through the Koksu Valley. It offers access by multiple passes including one called the Arzanova pass (near Peak Piazak 3728 m).

The main path is on the course of the Ayryk River, a right tributary of Koksu (departure 1200 m). Along the river grows deciduous trees, and lots of berry bushes. After 4 km climb where the trail winds, we encounter a huge natural dam. This natural dam lake has no more than 100 m in diameter, with a pale blue water, hence the name it bears is the Blue Lake (1500 m). The descent to the shores of the lake is steep and short. The trail skirts the south shore of the little blue lake, then goes right into the soft banks of the river, dotted with rocky placers (detrital relief). From there you can see on the left the top of Peak Piazak (3718 m).

Futher there we can consistently lead along the partially rocky bed of the Ayryk river, slightly to the left. The subterranean water flows, with occasional outbreaks on surface. After crossing a narrow rock "door", the route leaves room to a gorge surrounded by smooth and steep slopes interspersed of terraces. A path then leads to a mountainous amphitheater, the confluence of the sources of Ayryk-say. The path from the Lake into the circus takes about 4 hours for 800 m of ascent. Above you can climb to the pass Piazak (3470 m, 1B).

The route leading to Arzanova pass starts from the lake by a first section of clay reliefs, covered large stony portions where the shrubs are rare and we found soon in the valley a tightning net rocky ledge up to 60° of tilt, blocking access, sometimes with a small snowfield present here (2400 m). This ledge represents a significant challenge to overcome for the hiker, dividing the two sections of the course between snowfields up and rocky slopes down. The size of the jump is substantial, up to 10 m of a relatively steep wall and it requires the use of a rope for security and insurance. Above, there is a gently sloping area with a torrent at bottom. From this point it remains almost an hour to get to Arzanova pass. On the left (upstream) rises Piazak Peak (3718 m). The pass of Arzanova (3650 m, 2A) is usually bare of snow (windswept all season).

During the descent on the other side of Arzanova pass towards the Pskem basin, sometimes you need to cross some steep snow fields dotted with stone blocks on the right (watch out for holes). Lowest we find a moraine, some of melting snowfields interspersed with water, rocks and scree. Further down we find the first juniper shrubs. The river here adopts a powerful current between the stones, drained by water force directly against any side slopes. Several lateral valley waters merge and the descent is then steeper and more difficult: the rocks were particularly upside down, forming scree call "ulezhalis" and it is partially unstable rocks. At 4 km down, the river joins the mainstream of Ispay river. At this point the trail again appears and crosses the river Ispay on a bridge. From the From the bridge to the Pskem Valley there are approximately 7 - 8 km in the gorge to the village of Ispay.

There is still another route to go from Kokcu basin to the Pskem one. It starts from the mouth of the Myndzhilki-say River, a right tributary of the Kokcu. In the first kilometers, this valley is obstructed by huge rocks, and has many tightening wall forming real ravines. To go up this part of the valley, we must then take the riverbed and sometimes steep slopes. On the way there are also many fords to cross. Beyond the valley widens, and suggests some small birch groves. Upstream, there are more trees and the water of Myndzhilki-say soon disappears under the rocks. The source is located at an altitude of 3100 meters in a mountainous cirque surrounded by vertical cliffs of 250 to 280 m before the peak itself. Right two rocky cirques are dominated by mountain passes leading to the opposite side of the Pskem basin, the left circus can reach to the top of the Mashtasgon river.

Since the high valley of Myndhzhilki, to climb to the Ispay pass safely, great caution is required: the rocky slopes are steep and rockfall are possibles. Even more before reaching the pass of Ispay (3350 m, 2A), the valley is often under the threat of snow cornices early in the season, arranged directly overhead on the line of the rocky ridge. The route of access to the pass of Ispay draws a fairly smooth curve in the circus. Sources of Myndhzhilki-say will lose in some way in the vast rocky cirque. From the top, after the first course through the tightening of the valley, it takes 8-9 km of trail to reach the crest.

At the same mountainous cirque of upper Myndhzhilki-say, also one can reach on the left the Myndhzhilki pass (3300 m, 1B). This is the lowest pass across the ridge overlooking the circus. Beyond one goes down in the valley, crossing the Mashtasgon river is shallow, and first encounters a large lower scree, then the slope becomes rocky. Lower in altitude we found grass and waterfront shrubs and deciduous trees. The trail follows the river and goes down reached the Pskem river, gradually turning left towards the bridge. The descent from the pass takes about 6-7 km to the mouth of the tributary.

Two easier and lower altitude passes are still located on the borders of the crest of Pskem, allowing for example the connection between Chavata river, a tributary of the river Koksu and the Pskem river.

A.7.6. The Maydantal Range

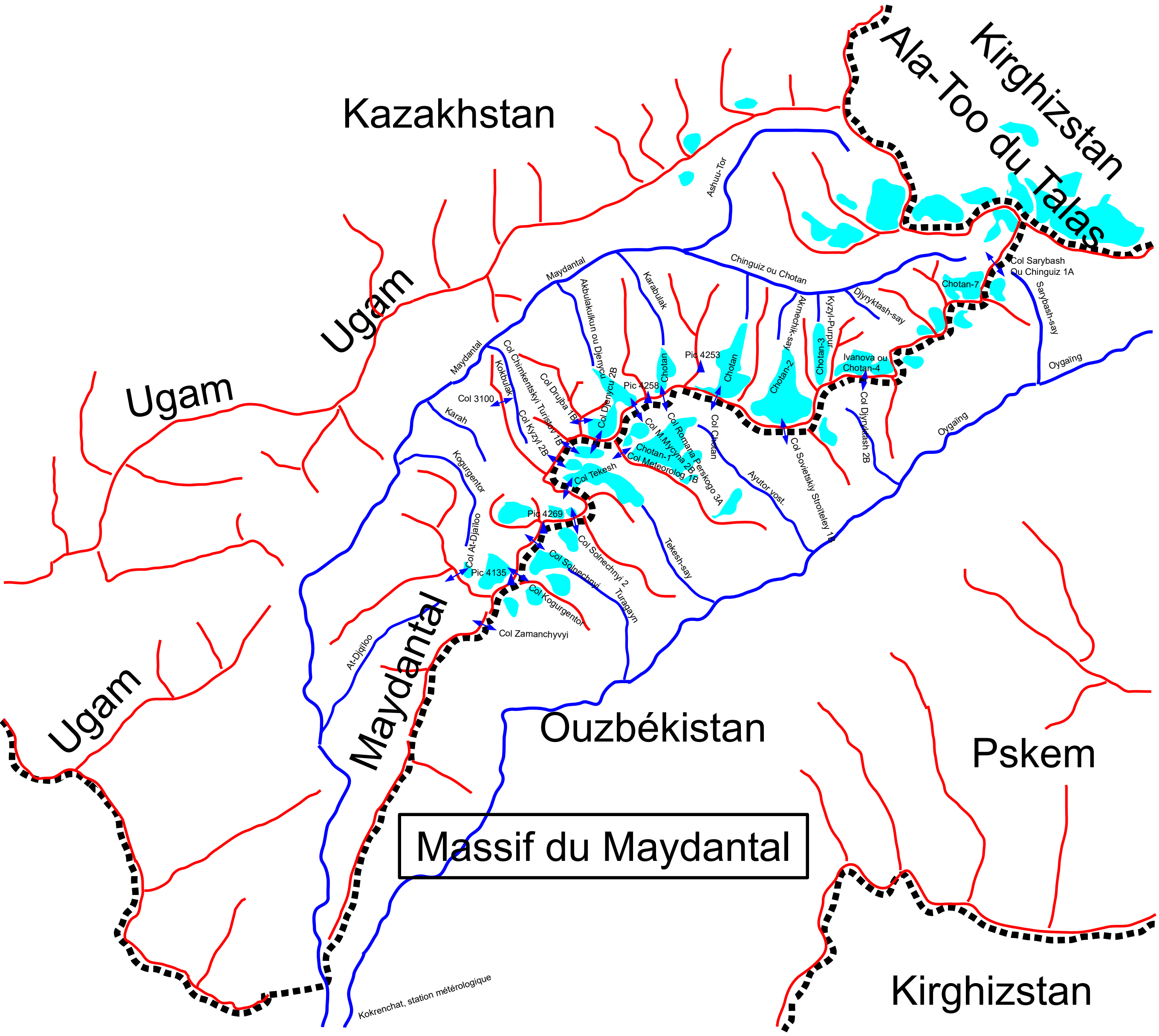
Cartography: maps 50 000th: K42-070-2, K42-070-3; 100 000th: K42-070; 200 000th: K42-17

The crest of Mayndantal is a broad spur starting south from the Talas Ala-Too, up to the Oygaing River on its right bank. The range is short, but has a very high and powerful crest. The range starts virtually on Peak Chongtash (4165 m called Chamangan on the map) to the Talas Ala-Too or Chingiz pass. It forms a mountain range separating the two watersheds of Oygaing and Maydantal rivers. It extends south-west to around 45 km and is exactly the current border between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The northernmost peak, Peak Chongtash is exactly the point of the three border republics of Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan). Its rocky ridge rises to its highest altitude of 4321 m. The range is cut into deep valleys forming deep canyons and U-shaped bottom valley and ancient glaciers beds. Glaciologists have here enumerate about 50 small and large glaciers that occupy less than a quarter of the total area of the glacial basin of Pskem river. The range is relatively abundant in glacier area. The northwestern slopes are steep and rocky, as if they were falling directly into the Maydantal river, while the southeastern slope have several large ledges overlooking the Oygaing, which are interrupted by deep gorges in many places.

The Closest Pass north of the mountain of Maydantal, pass forming the concrete separation between Talas Ala-Too and Maydantal, connects the valleys of Sarybash and Chingiz. The Sarybash is a right tributary of the Oygaing and Chingyz or Chotan is one of two components of Maydantal River (local people call this Chingyz river or Chingyz Chotanchad). The Sarybash pass (3450 m, 1B, or Chingyz pass on the map) can hardly be called a pass. The seat of the pass is a plateau covering several square kilometers, probably formed by ancient glaciers, lying down on the Talas Ala-Too slopes. The top plateau is often covered with eternal snow. Here and there we found the remains of ancient moraines flattened, forming gentle hills covered with sparse grass. At the top of the plateau is a lake which will tend to disappear in a few years. When the waters are high it is probably a natural reservoir water storage for Sarybash-say River.

This pass of Sarybash on far north of the range is seen by shepherds and farmers as the demarcation with the Talas Ala-Too range, known in this part of the mountain massif Torashu or Ashutor. The glacier located just off the pass was listed by glaciologists as the glacier Chotan No. 7 of the Chotan glacier group. The flow of glacial melt feeds a lake, which is just below on the same tray. The lake is close to the stiff tongue of Glacier Chotan-6 which can reach a height of 60 m. In the water of Moraine Lake fleet some small miniature icebergs.

From the banks of the Oygaing river, one can achieve to the flat pass in 6-7 hours by walk, with a little over 10 km in distance and nearly 1200 m in altitude gain. The opposite slope descent is gentle enough to reach soon the melt streams confluence of two rivers, coming from two passes upstream Sarybash (or Chingyz) and Torashu (also Ashutor River and pass Maydantal). Here begins a path downstream. The right bank of the valley is steep and somewhat less divided into valley, while several tributaries on the left bank come from many senior glaciers upstream.


Kirghizstan
Ala-Too du Talas
Kazakhstan
Ugam
Ugam
Ugam
Ashuu-Tor
Maydantal
Chinguiz ou Chotan
Akbulakulkun ou Djenycu
Karabulak
Maydantal
Col Chimkentskyi Turistov 1B
Kokbulak
Col Drujba 1B
Col Djenycu 2B
Pic 4258
Chotan
Pic 4253
Chotan
Akmechik-say
Kyzyl-Purpur
Chotan-2
Chotan-3
Djyryktash-say
Chotan-7
Col Sarybash
Ou Chinguiz 1A
Sarybash-say
Oygaïng
Ivanova ou
Chotan-4
Col Djyryktash 2B
Oygaïng
Col 3100
Karah
Col Kyzyl 2B
Col M.Mycyna 2B
Col Romana Perskogo 3A
Col Chotan
Col Sovietskiy Stroiteley 1B
Chotan-1
Col Meteorolog 1B
Col Tekesh
Ayutor vost.
Kogurgentor
Pic 4269
Col At-Djailoo
Col Solnechnyi 2
Tekesh-say
Col Solnechnyi
Pic 4135
Col Kogurgentor
Turagayn
Col Zamanchyvyi
At-Djailoo
Maydantal
Ouzbékistan
Pskem
Massif du Maydantal
Kirghizstan
Kokrenchat, station métérologique

Orographic scheme of the Maydantal Range

At 2 km downstream of the river Chotan (or Chingyz) throws left tributary Dzhuruktash-say, which originates in the glacier Ivanova (Chotan-4). A powerful terminal moraine has filled the valley in its entire width. The left glacier tongue descends steeply in a cascade of ice to a height of 3200 m. Separated by a rocky outcrop on the right, the passages are possible that allow access to the glacial cirque. The length of the glacier Ivanova is 3 km, but straight to the crest of Maydantal, it is not more than 500 m. In the circus, the glacier turns east.

In the glacial cirque, there are three passes separated by well individualized peaks. For the central pass, even if it is not yet crossed (in 1977 at least), it was given the name Dzhyryktash pass (3500 m).

In the nearby side valley downstream of Chotan valley, flows the Kyzylpurpur river from a glacier of Chotan group, the Chotan-3, hidden by the narrow valley. The glacier tongue is so covered with moraine sediments and present such an rise of thrust that glaciologists were still unable to determine its actual length and surface (in 1977 at least). Nevertheless it is estimated to a length of 2.4 km. The top of the glacier is located at 3800 m. Going up Chotan-3 glacier, hikers will cross on the other side in the upper left source of the Ayutor River, which flows lower into the Oygaing.

Always following the downstream direction of Chotan valley, 1 km further you reach the mouth of the river Akmechik-say, below the mouth of the torrent Kyzylpurpur. The Akmechik-say river flows of two sources on the moraine, which are nearly as far apart as the width of the glacier Chotan from which they originate. It is better to go up the right tributary, going up the scree moraine. The height of some projections can reach up to 20 m on the steep banks.

After about an hour's walk along the river, the valley opens beyond a "door" rock (almost 500 m wide). Beyond develops the Chotan-2 glacier rather fractured. A rocky ridge separates the glacier in two separate terminals tongues, those on the left being the most fractured. For ascending the glacier it is more convenient to take the right tongue by a slope up to 30°. Above the glacier flattens gradually and without special fluctuations raised almost to the ridge where the slope increases at the last moment. The glacier surface is covered with a layer of firn, which, in places, suggests some small cracks. The width of the circus is to 1 km and the total length of the glacier is about 4 km away.

In its upper reaches, straight along its main axis, one easily sees the pass on the ridge. The upper peaks are highly cut and the upper tongue extends over the ridge on a length of 70 m giving access to the steep south slope of the Oygaing. Under the pass, to the right of the tongue, you can file your registration in a box that officially indicates that one has reached the pass of "Soviet builders" (3570 m, 2A). The rise time to the peak is about 4 hours.

On the descent route of the pass, towards the Ayutor valley, you can see on the left a small tongue of ice, on which flows water cascades. At the foot of the slopes of scree and snow down reach 50°. Here to move down it should be taken to the right of the slope to bypass waterfalls. Lower descent continues along a rocky corridor, where the bottom keeps track of avalanches. The water passes under rocks and reappears nearby Ayutor river. On the right bank of the river, the descent path to the Oygaing is visible, but the reach is almost impossible in the small deep and rocky canyon of river Ayutor flows its powerful stream. Therefore, to move down, you take the steep left bank without any trail.

It is in the valley of the Ayutor, that one found the longest glacier Chotan-1 and the main flow of the river Ayutor. This is the longest (4.1 km) glacier from the Chotan group. It starts at an altitude of 2900 m, it rises to 3800 m.

Let us return to the northwest slope down towards the Maydantal, we encounter a left tributary torrent from a glacier called the Karabulak. Here hikers of Tashkent during the summer of 1972, climbed the glacial valley to the main ridge. The description that we give here is from their report at the time.

According to the report, the terminal ice mixture is not very steep (not more than 30°), but the immediate upper slope is almost twice as steep. Ice is often covered with a layer of compact snow. Perhaps it takes an hour to rise vertically by 50 m (with insurance) and reach a first break in the slope. In addition there are 70 meters of ice climbing. It is better to bypass by the left side on ice border / rock, mainly on the rock. This saves the cutting of steps on ice (technique still used in 1977) and exposure to falling rocks on ice climbing. Then before the glacier ledge, we cross a few hidden crevasses sometimes by snow, it is then necessary to reach the top of the first ice climbing that whe have just avoid the left. The ice here is free of snow, and the glacier surface is littered with many fallen stones from precipices and transported so far. There are frequent transversal, deep crevasses and a width of them up to 1 m on the right (upward direction). This is at the edge of the large lateral moraine on the glacial stream that there is a convenient place to set up a bivouac for the night (3210 m).

This part of the glacier forms a sort of circus-shaped cavity carved on the sides of the mountain. Circus is 1.5 km long, 800 m breadth. Its icy surface is meshed of small cracks. The circus is limited by right bank of the rock walls from the top at 4264 meters above sea level in the upper part and on the left by a small glacier. The latter is housed in a narrow corridor between the polished rock walls, through which the mass of accumulated ice is like compressed. His ice flow is strongly tortured by bumps, large crevasses and seracs above rocks and ice projections that seems to flow down the circus.

The second stage of the route is more obvious. It is necessary to move to the left side. A first ascent follows the firn glacier ice which includes outcrops on the most steep slopes at 70°, between two rocky outcrops. We go up in successive trips between rocks and ice. After a high ascent of 100 m vertically, you have to cross a snow-ice zone around the rocks on the right (on the upward direction) and climb over the top. Here, there is a platform under a rock, where climbers can spend the night, because from the middle of the day until evening, there was a lot of rock falls and blocks ice from the top of the ice cascade. The bivouac place is well protected and it is necessary to wait ideally the refreezing morning which sets the rocks and ice in place.

Above the camp site, the route joins the bed of the glacier, sometimes with slopes reaching 50-60° inclination. From the edge as soon as possible you have to cross right up the rock face, as you cross over the obstacle of the second ice climbing route.

Above the icefall, the circus is slightly smaller in size to the previous circus with diameter 500-600 m. On the right (uphill) low rock walls are covered with large hanging glacier tongues, left, the circus is cut by the third icefall. No one suspected the existence of this stunt before being succeeded there (a 100 m height difference). Almost the entire perimeter of the low circus contains glaciers, causing particularly fragmented glacial landforms (cracks, seracs, bulges). The circus is notched by a huge flaw, upward continuation of the second icefall. To work around this flaw, we must go to the foot of the last Icefall of the circus (its altitude is 3720 m) in about an hour long.

On the third ice climbing, it is easier to climb on the right side. The path is steep through packed snow, and it zigzags on ice covered with small stones. Mountaineers went to the edge of a large crevasse crossing ice climbing, via its narrowest point on the plateau, to return again over the course of the glacier. This rift marks the beginning of ice climbing. It was only after the passage of new cracks and snow bridge that one reaches the uppermost ledge of the glacier. Here the passage on the crest of Maydantal is clearly visible. The pass forms a small platform thin scree, where it is possible to place two to three tents for the bivouac.

The total time the first Tashkent climbers put to reach this pass is about 30 hours for a vertical elevation of over 1,000 m. The pioneers called this pass from the name of a Persian novel on the mountain and has been classified as category 3 difficulty (pass Romana Perskogo, AD, AD+, altitude 3900 m). The descent from the pass by the ascent route is much more complicated given the steepness of the slope, it is difficult to perform a tracking path.

The route down the opposite side (Ayutor river) that the Tashkent group has taken is a complex journey. He takes the direction of a corridor almost 200 meters long, inclined at 70° with vertical sides, sometimes with a width of 1.5 to 3 m, paved with smooth slabs, but abseiling on string is possible, facilitated by numerous rocky spoilers on the sides. The snow couloir descent, finished below with a steep scree of fine rocks. Then down we cross a scree slope down to the glacier, the main channel of the Ayutor river onto its middle. At the edge of the glacier, there are several large radial cracks. Gradually going down, we move to the left, because the bottom of the glacier is also a maze of crevasses. We finally go along the left edge of the glacier and continue down to reach the terminal tongue (3060 m), then the moraine to a small lake (2900 m). Here, on the right bank of the river appears the track leading to the Oygaing river.

Downstream of Maydantal after Karabulak river, its left bank tributary, we encounter always left bank, a tributary river that bears the name Akbulakulkun not Dzhenysu as sometimes some climbers call it on their reports. This tributary also begins in upper glacier on the north face. The moraine is characteristic for its green spots, made from apparent fine material under the ice, following the flow of water and sedimented in the bed of the glacier. The terminal glacial tongue is clearly visible early, located 3040 m on a thin ledge of the valley. The glacier has a significant thrust sheet. And it was only after 500 m from the terminal tongue, through blocks and crushed stone, that we encounter the first cracks. The left bank of the glacier is the largest area of carried debris where is accumulated lots of furniture materials.

The glacier upstream faces strong inflection in his courses (a total length of 3.2 km) forming a frozen waterfall. Above the waterfall, glacier bifurcates into two branches: the right branch goes south-east, the left towards the south-west. On this part of the glacier, the area is crisscrossed by “bédières” (melted water streams). The left branch leads to a separate mountainous cirque from main glacier, above which the steepness of the glacier slope decreases, but on the right, slope increases inexorably to the main ridge of Maydantal. The maximum elevation of the glacier is 4050 m.

The top edges of Akbulakulkun glacier overlook the watersheds of Ayutor and Tekesh-say. On the side of the Tekesh-say basin, the crest of Maydantal was already reach by mountaineers. At the same effect, on the left circus the ridges are rock walls, interspersed with ice corridors of a tilt up to 60°. The circus glacier is covered with snow and on a distance of about 800 m, the slope is only of 15-20°. Above this area there are an ice climbing on steep lanes. The minimum level of difficulty of the pass to the end of Akbulakulkun glacier is estimated at 3A (AD).

At the same upper reaches of the river Maydantal, two left tributaries, the Kokbulak and Karah, come also from two small glaciers, both with a length of about 700 meters, also have the same extension in altitude: 3550 m (lower part) and 4000 m (top). The small glacier Kokbulak has trained dam impressive moraine.

About 7 km downstream from the mouth of the river Kokbulak (still down the Maydantal) one meets the Kogurgentor River which originates upstream from seven glaciers covering a total area of 3.3 km2. The mouth of the river forms a narrow valley, facing east, restricted by two powerful lateral spurs of the main ridge of Maydantal. The narrowed river has carted an impressive rising of moraine sediments and partially filled the Maydantal valley at the mouth. At 2920 m above sea level is two small moraine lakes.

The front Moraine of the largest glacier in the north of a buttress, completely covers the snout at 3650 m above sea level and gradually merges with the lateral moraines. Recessed in the valley at first, the glacier surface upstream is more strongly corrugated by the jumps of slopes, forming at inflections very large transversal crevasses. The valley bottom is filled by residual avalanches, falling from steep slopes. Glacier highest point is 4100 m.

The second glacier further south, is the longest glacier. It happens to be the source of the river Kogurgentor. The glacier froms a U-shaped valley, extends over 2 km from 4100 m to 3400 m, without major fluctuations. The three tributaries of the Maydantal (Akbulakulkun, Kokbulak and Kogurgentor) also have interests as their upstream fuses: indeed in their upper parts, which communicate with the summit ridge of Maydantal can be achieved through Tekesh-say valley, which the mouth in Oygaing is about 5 km downstream from that of the Ayutor river.

The track of the Tekesh-say valley climbs on the right bank. Sometimes the trail is poorly marked and lost quite a bit because of its little used. It first passes through the terraces between Oygaing and the entrance to the rocky gorge Tekesh, navigating between the stones scattered in the grassy slopes and bushes. The trail slowly gaining height, with a first view of the moraine areas. At 3100 meters, we approach the glacier tongue. The stream emerges from a deep channel. Here, the valley is relatively wide, but soon becomes narrower and steeper above. Soon the tormented ice flows gets into a narrow corridor of trapped by wild walls.

The most convenient passage upstream on the glacier is located on the right. It still requires planning an early exit, to overcome ice climbing in good conditions before the sun comes warm slopes. If time is short, so in this case we look for a bivouac at the left side to continue the course in good condition next morning. For the ascent of the glacier it is particularly long in elevation, ice climbing grows vertically on almost 1 km 200 m.

On the left side of the ice climbing, there is a deep and huge crevasse 50 m long, and on the right side, the cracks are smaller, with snow bridges above.

Above the glacier surface is less steep (20°), but there is still a lot of transversal crevasses. In the middle part of the glacier crevasses are blocked by snow, and a passage on snow bridges is possible. In addition, the glacier is standing up again cascading over a height of about 170 m elevation and a length of about 500 m. Depending on the quantity of snow and the existing schedule of the climb, it is more convenient to cross this part either in the middle or the left.

The last section of the ascent route crosses a huge circus, whose north side is completely enclosed by walls of rock, snow and ice. The south side has its rocky cliffs. It is in this top of the main glacier that lies the Tekesh Pass, one of the easiest parts of the sector. Right circus (rise direction) the rocky ridge is robust and there is little obvious pass. On this part of the ridge is still the Kyzyl-Uzbekistan pass. Just farther right above the ridge rises the highest mountain peak of Mayndantal at 4320 meters. The various passes we describe lead either to Akbulakulkun glacier or on the lower crest right towards the Ayutor Valley.

To join the side of Akbulakulkun glacier, opposite, we shall proceed to the location of the crest with a rocky ride feature called the "finger". To access it we go up the slope of a lateral glacier that joins the main Tekesh glacier. In this section the last 120 meters are scree slope with no snow and with a slope gradient of up to 45°. The pass accessed was named Dzhenysu pass. Its altitude is 3870 m, near the turn of the "finger". Getting down Akbulakulkun (which may as well be used as ascent route) also goes down a steep scree and rocks along the left bank of the hanging glacier before reaching the body of the glacier.

In the same crest area of the Tower "finger", one can also visit the pass of Kyzyl-Uzbekistan, located on the left. Do not climb directly to the ridge, rather transversely diagonally to the left and reach the main ridge of Maydantal a little southwest. The height of the Kyzyl-Uzbekistan pass is 3910 m (2B rating). For the descent on the slopes of the valley Kokbulak, the Tashkent climbers recommended going around slightly to the right before beginning the descent to join an easier field down to the sources of Kokbulak river.

Specifically, from the pass Kyzyl-Uzbekistan, turn right (direction of the rise), we run along the main ridge to cross a wall, and then by a downward crossing on a 40° slope, we come down to the circus. From there, we take the slope of the trail without moraine (appears below). Then just follow the road for several kilometers to the mouth of the Kokbulak in Maydantal (described above). If mountaineers and hikers wishing to travel on Maydantal river, then it is possible to proceed in a different way. Approximately on the middle of the Kokbulak valley there are rock towers at the altitude of 3302 meters (3308 listed on the map). Near these towers is an altitude pass of 3110 m. Then you have to follow a spur to get there and to toggle into the next valley to the south. It passes through a birch wood. Then it only takes 30 minutes of walking to reach the river Maydantal because the terrain is less steep than in the valley of Kokbulak.

But back to the description of Tekesh glacier, to talk about the pass of the same name, Tekesh pass. As has been said earlier, is the main glacier of the valley, we climbed without difficulty to an altitude of 4100 m. The slope reaches 35° before the ridge, and at the approach of the pass we must cross two rimayes. The Tekesh pass (3780 m, 2B) is a saddle placed on a narrow rocky edge where the rocks are destroyed to such an extent that they crumble by strong gusts of wind. We go down to the first Kurumbel glacier by scree slopes which then turns into a steep couloir, sometimes interspersed with snow. At 1 km from the main ridge, you should go through the left side of the ice tongue, to avoid any open cross crevasses. At this point the glacier surface, of pronounced blue color, is almost divided into cracked slabs of 5-10 m wide, and the glacier ends with a steep tongue and end moraines tree. Down the descent path from the pass Atdjaïloo (pass pasture) becomes visible. It goes to the southwest and the Atdjaïloo River Valley. It is also continuing on the grassy slopes along the river Kogurgentor.

One can also reach the sources of Kogurgentor crossing the ridge from the Oygaing via another of its tributaries, the Turagain, whose mouth is about 5 km downstream from the mouth of Tekesh. The climb starts on the rocks, alternating with short sections of clay soil on the right bank of the river Turagain.

On the rise, rather left bank, the valley takes a sharp turn. At this point the valley is dominated by high ridges where you can see the grassy saddles, leading to the Tekesh basin opportunities to the cross to the other valley further north). At 1h30 by walk from the mouth of the river Turagayn we join a birch grove on a distant steep from shore. The trail above becomes difficult due to the overall increase of slopes of the river, with stretches of rapids and waterfalls.

The Turagayn valley becomes narrower before addressing the moraine areas (rise). It is better to avoid this by a narrow upper terrace. At this point the river receives a tributary cascading down. Upstream the main riverbed is completely filled with stones and the slope increases to 45°. After 2 hours of walking uphill on the right opens a small glacier strongly convulsed, cracked, and also on this main glacier at the center of which there is a Nunatak (it is possible to guess on the map), topped with a pyramid peak. Here the glacier tongue is 3450 m.

To go on the glacier, immediately get in the middle, because the cracks are much narrower than those of the edges. This is also due to the low inclination of the glacier by 20°. After a few hundred meters one meet the first break of slope in ice. Beyond this, is the circus summit (3750 m). In the circus, the last slopes are formed by mixed rock and ice before the crest of Maydantal and are inclined to 60°. But this mixed slope has vires. It's on the last part of the path that you can take one of its ledges along the rock wall. The width of the “vire” is 10 m, leading to a narrow rocky ridge where is the pass of the "sunny ridge" (Solnechnyi pass, about 4100 m, 2A).

On the opposite side, there was first a steep slope of coated granite blocks that ends with a cliff with a height up to 30 m. Beyond that, it's still a steep couloir of ice and scree, yet another corridor, then a relatively flat section, followed by a steep exit to the surface of the glacier. On the circus background there is a snowy lake. Trail on the lower part of the glacier is gently sloping following the “bédières” (melted ice stream). The terminal tongue is located at an altitude of 3400 m. Turning to the left (downhill) is the pass of Atdjaïloo: thence along the path of Atdjaïloo river, one reaches the Maydantal. Depending on the desired route and destination, hikers can return to the Maydantal river through the valley of the River Kogurgentor (described just before).

South-west ridge of Maydantal, the mountain range is gradually losing height, but his rocky ridge remains narrow and jagged. Near the confluence of the Maydantal and Pskem, shape reliefs become softer, with grassland and covered terraces with few and scattered juniper bushes. In this region, at an altitude of 2150 m, in the Kokrenchat opposite the Oygaing, there is a weather station.

A.7.7. The Ugam Range and western part of the Talas Ala-Too

Cartography: maps 50 000th: K42-070-1, K42-070-2, K42-070-3; 100 000th: K42-058, K42-069, K42-070, K42-080, K42-081; 200 000th: K42-17, K42-23.

A powerful mountains node has been formed from Talas Ala-Too, at sources of Aksu and Zhabagly rivers, from its height of 3986 meters (4027 Peak Akcyam on the map) the mountain turns into several ears: the Zhabagly-Too, Ala-Too, Bugulytor-Too. These spurs are within the watersheds of rivers Aksu and Zhabagly. The river is bounded to the south by the main ridge of the Ugam, the Mounts Baldabrek (name of the river that takes its source).

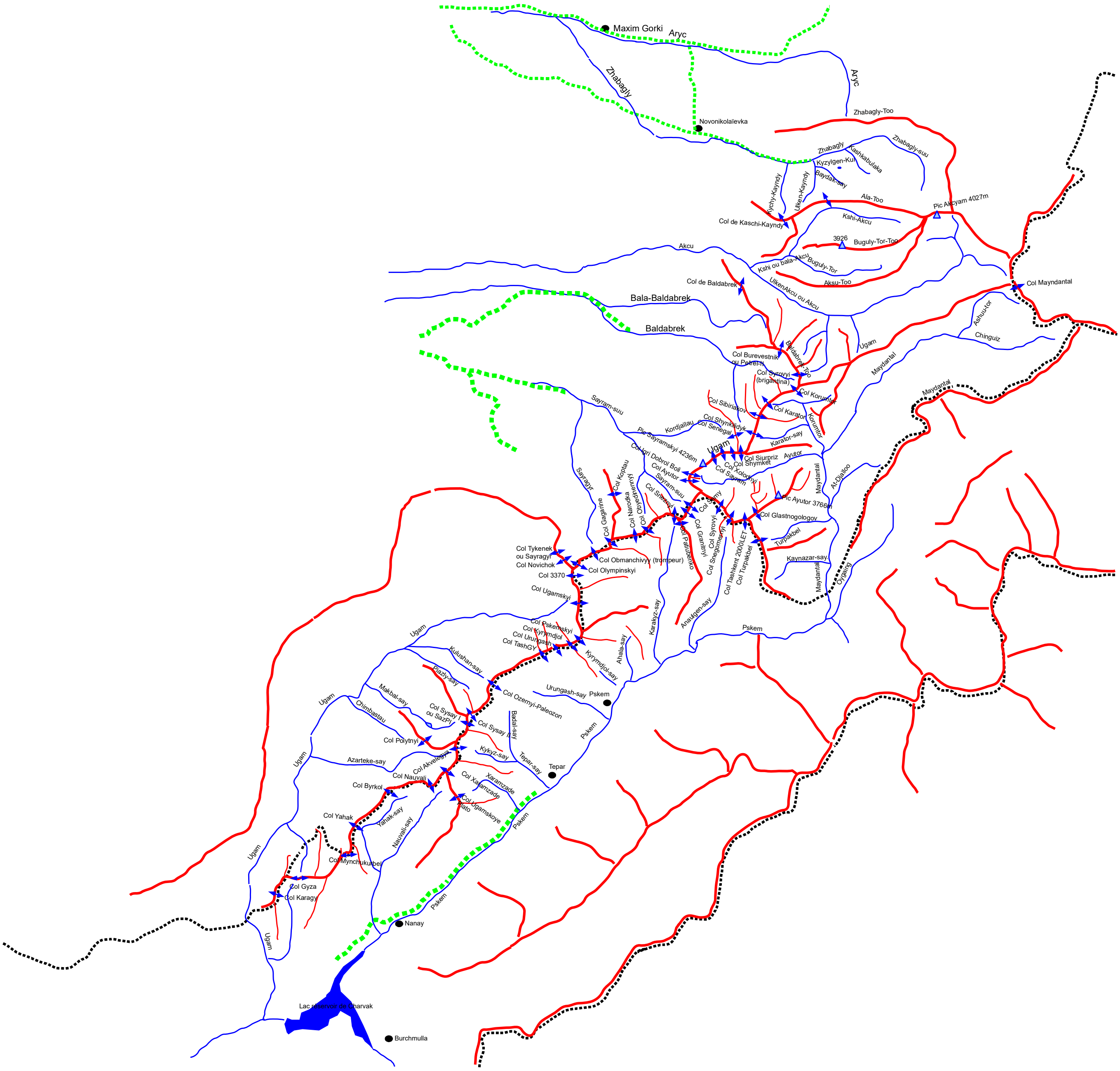
The Ugam range extends north from the Talas Ala-Too, in the region of Maydantal pass and forms the watershed divide between the great watersheds of the two main rivers of the region the Arys and the Pskem northeast and between the two small watersheds of rivers Pskem and Ugam in the southwest. Nearly 75,000 hectares of northwest land is dedicated to the nature reserve of Aksu-Dzhabagly, created in 1926 between the Talas Ala-Too and the adjacent part of the Ugam.

The valley of the river Dzhabagly forms gentle relief and is accessible without major difficulty for hiking almost everywhere. From the village of Novonikolayevka, where there is a reserve management center, upstream of the river until its tributary the Ulkenkaindy, there is a road track. From the entrance of the reserve Dzhabagly to sources at an altitude above 2500 m, there is a distance of 18-19 km of climb. The valley Dzhabagly is a typical glacial trough of 2-3 km wide, with numerous signs of erosion. In this broad valley bottom, the river and its various tributaries form deep, narrow slots (up to 100-200 m).

The trail starts from the valley on the left bank, on the slopes of the relatively flat crest of Ala-Too mountains where large terraces overlooking the river bed. From the main runway to the crest there are several possible paths via the side tributaries. For one of these paths, via the valley of the River Kashy-Kaindy, the trail winds between the stones, crosses the stream and then up towards the pass Kshi-Kaindy or Kashy-Kaindy (3120 m, 1A, Kashy-Kaindy on the map).

Upstream of the Dzhabagly Valley road track reaches the next left tributary, the Ulken-Kaindy. There the road trail ends and turns into a mountain trail. Following the trail to the east, we cross during several kilometers zones of bushes, several watersheds tributary streams and then goes down to the Baydak-say River. From the heights it begins to reveal a small lake below, the Lake Kyzylgen-kul.

If we continue the path to the east, after a slight increase in the slope to the next foothill, it runs along the southeast basin of Lake Kyzylgen-kul, which is in the form of a tray, then through a torrent rise just one time to immediately descend to the bed of the river Kaskabulaka. On the upper reaches of the Kaskabulaka ,you better go take the left bank, where remains the traces of an ancient path. The upper reaches of the river Kaskabulaka is rarely visited by people, so here you can meet with many wild animals and birds. The valley of this river comes up against a huge cliff of dark gray color, where is located at their top some small glaciers. The river Kaskabulaka comes from the melting of three of these small glaciers.


Maxim Gorki
Aryc
Zhabagly
Aryc
Novonikolaïevka
Zhabagly-Too
Zhabagly
Kashkabulaka
Zhabagly-suu
Kyzylgen-Kul
Baydak-say
Kychy-Kayndy
Ulken-Kayndy
Ala-Too
Pic Akcyam 4027m
Col de Kaschi-Kayndy
Kshi-Akcu
3926
Buguly-Tor-Too
Akcu
Kshi ou bala-Akcu
Buguly-Tor
Aksu-Too
Col de Baldabrek
UlkenAkcu ou Akcu
Col Mayndantal
Bala-Baldabrek
Baldabrek
Ashuu-tor
Chinguiz
Ugam
Maydantal
Col Burevestnik
ou Petrel-II
Baldabrek-Too
Col Syrovyi
(brigantina)
Col Korumtor
Maydantal
Sayram-suu
Col Sibiriakov
Col Karator
Korumtor
Kordjaïlau
Col Shynkilidyk
Col Senegal
Karator-say
Pic Sayramskyi 4236m
Ugam
Col Igri Dobroï Boli
Col Ayutor
Col Siurpriz
Ayutor
Col Shymket
Col Xolodnyi
Col Sayram
Sayram-suu
Sayragyr
Col Koptau
Col Narodka
Col Obyedinennyy
Col Gagarine
Col Sneznyi
Col Semy
Pic Ayutor 3766m
Maydantal
At-Djaïloo
Col Glastnogologov
Col Syrovyi
Col Snegomernyi
Col Granitnyi
Col Patiubenko
Col Tashkent 2000LET
Col Turpakbel
Turpakbel
Col Tykenek
ou Sayragyr
Col Novichok
Col Obmanchivyy (trompeur)
Col Olympinskyi
Col 3370
Kaynazar-say
Maydantal
Oygaing
Col Ugamskyi
Karakyz-say
Anaulgen-say
Pskem
Ugam
Col Pskemskyi
Col Kyrymdjol
Col Urungash
Col TashGY
Ahala-say
Kyrymdjol-say
Kulushan-say
Pjazly-say
Urungash-say
Pskem
Ugam
Makbal-say
Chimbastau
Col Ozernyi-Paleozon
Col Sysay I
ou SazPI
Col Sysay II
Badal-say
Pskem
Col Polytnyi
Kykyz-say
Tepar-say
Ugam
Azarteke-say
Col Akvelegya
Tepar
Col Nauvali
Col Xaramzade
Xaramzade
Col Byrkol
Col Ugamskoye
Plato
Pskem
Col Yahak
Yahak-say
Nauvali-say
Ugam
Col Mynchukurbel
Col Gyza
Col Karagy
Pskem
Nanay
Ugam
Lac réservoir de Charvak
Burchmulla

Orographic scheme of Ugam range and Western part of Talas Ala-Too

Probably nobody often rises on this part of the crest of the Ala-Too: the descent from the crest to the Kshi-Aksu river is not possible because of high cliffs from a height of more than 500 m.

Beyond the Kaskabulaka River on the course of Dzhabagly-Bashi river, the valley then turns south. On the right bank of the river, the slopes below the crest of Dzhabagly strongly climbs above the water, but on the left bank slopes are gentler on the other hand, covered with bushes. At higher altitudes, deciduous trees disappear, leaving only the junipers, which develop as annular cushions.

The valley is closed by a rocky ridge in the eastern part where the top 3986 m is located. At the summit of steep slopes there are high circuses of small glaciers, forming the origins of Dzhabagly river. There is no information available at the moment on the transition from the upper ridge of the Ala-Too above the river Dzhabagly to the sources of the river Kshi-Aksu (for small Aksu).

The south side of the Ala-Too mountains is very steep, many rocky outcrops scratch the wall on the right bank of the Kshi-Aksu River. The river valley forms a true canyon, narrow and deep (600-700 m). In the canyon floor, the bubbling torrent of 4-6 m wide jumps into cascades. On the left bank, the northern slope of the ridge of Bugulytor-Too, also very high and steep, rises above the valley floor 200-300 m above. The left bank of Kshi-Aksu receives a whole series of tributaries, often from small glaciers above.

The upper valley of Kshi-Aksu ends with a circus, whose vertical slopes form an entire duct system which is able to accommodate some small glaciers. In the valley at an altitude of about 2500 m, there is a huge field of snow in some years tends to remain permanent. In such cases, the river flows sometimes on or above the firn, and forms like a bédière upon the hardened snow. It can carves tunnels and snow caves.

The upper ridge of the sources of Kshi-Aksu river borders the basins of Dzhabagli and Ulken-Aksu River. This ridge separation is very high at the altitude of 4042 m (peak Dzhabagly or Akcyam). And as far as we know, this part of the ridge is not very frequented by tourists.

South of the Kshi-Aksu River is the major rock bar of Bugulytor-Too, which borders the north of the Bugulytor River Valley. On the north side of the mountain Bugulytor, there is a number of small glaciers and south sides are steep and rocky. Their mineral look remind the southern slopes of the Kshi-Aksu area. The craggy Bugulytor-Too rises up to 3926 m. The Bugulytor valley is narrow and runs to the south and southeast in an east-west direction, it is relatively limited in length and the river has a rather low outflow. It is bordered by the north face of the crest of the Aksu mountain, where there are a few small glaciers that feed the river. South of the mountains is the valley of the natural reserve of the Aksu River.

Leaving the mountain, by the erosion of its waters, the Aksu River pierced its way into clusters and impressive columns of conglomerates and form indeed a deep gorge. The canyon of Aksu is a unique natural phenomenon of its kind: a length of 18 km, it has a depth of up to 500-600 m. These upper edges are located at a distance of 400-500 m from each other. The steep slopes of the canyon fall from a height of 200 m on average. The canyon is also equipped with a small terraces network of ledges alternating with roofs overlooking the steep cliff. The diversity of geological formations can be observed on almost the entire length of the canyon.

If one follows the course of the Aksu River in the canyon for a distance of 18-20 km, you reach the confluence of the rivers Kshi-Aksu and Ulken-Aksu. Above the Ulken-Aksu river is often simply referred to as Aksu. About 3 km above the confluence of the Aksu River flows a small river tributary left (south direction). In its upper reaches is the Baldabrek pass, which was initially reached by a group of mountaineers and hikers of Tashkent in 1962. It takes about two hours to go up straight on a steep slope, then onto a rocky scree until the fork of two rivers, which are often both filled with large snow fields early in the season. We must continue to climb along the bed of the good torrent. We can recognize it in its upper rocky ridge on the left bank, regular made and rather flattened, composed of broken rocks. It is easier to ride along the hardened snow firn. Above, the snow couloir becomes more pronounced with at the circus center, the Baldabrek pass (3300 m, 1B). From the junction of the rivers Aksu to the pass it covers all 5:00 in time.

About 8-9 km of climb to the Baldabrek pass, the Aksu has another tributary, which flows where starts the crest of the actual Ugam, from the Baldabrek Mountains. After 3 km of climb, the trail goes through a left tributary directly to the crest of the Ugam above the Maydantal river valley (the Pskem basin). Here, the distance between the Aksu rivers and Maydantal ridge is about 10 km.

Because the top of the Aksu River is infrequently visited by hikers, the trail can be interrupted in some places. On the banks there are birch, honeysuckle, barberry, and creeping juniper bushes in higher altitude. On the slopes of the crest of the Ugam, the eternal snows are visible between from time to time other rocks, which contribute to feed small left tributaries of the Aksu. The slopes of the right bank of the valley are formed by steep cliffs of whimsical form, the result of the erosion of time (air, water, cold). In some places, the rocks form staircase ledges filled with juniper bushes. Between cliffs, the slopes are green.

At a certain altitude, hardwood species disappear, leaving most of the time instead juniper near the ground. The landscape gradually acquires alpine features, on rivers are often encountered snow bridges. At an altitude of about 3000 m from the main bed of the Aksu River, rises a powerful left wild spur, descending from the snowy peaks, and the huge scree slopes.

The range of Ugam and that of the Talas Ala-Too stand separately from the upper reaches of the river Korumtor. This last river flows towards the Maydantal river, whose development is quite short passes in a place where we talked about earlier in the book.

In the vicinity of Korumtor pass, the Ugam range meets the crest of Baldabrek Mountains. They both share the basins of the Aksu and Baldabrek rivers, and one of the spurs is the watershed line between Baldabrek and its tributary the north Balabaldabrek river. The sources of Balabaldabrek River are located in two (or three) parallel valleys to each other and separated by the main summit of Baldabrek Mountains (3694 m). The two valleys ends in glacial cirque, and in the right one is located the Petrel-II pass (Burevestnik, the bird), rather aerial as the name suggests. The climb of the valley leads to three successive moraine rises, each 100 to 150 m high.

Direct access to Petrel-II pass (Burevestnik, 3350 m, 2A) is relatively easy through the snowy slope. From there you can observe the Peak Saïramskiy (4236, the highest point in the range of Ugam) and several peaks around this mountain.

Before descending the pass, one has to go to the left along the rocky ridge for about 300 m, to arrive at the base of a wide corridor that you begin to descend. The corridor is intersected by a projection of steep rock slabs, it is then necessary to move cautiously. Lower the descent is divided into three narrower corridors. The most convenient to below is the left. The rocks become more steep and it takes half an hour to cross 50 meters from a steep wall. Lower one reaches a long scree slope down to the river Baldabrek.

A 7-8 km from the top of the main ridge of the Ugam, the Baldabrek river splits into two branches: one on the right continues its course eastward, source of the river, the left back to the south. The left branch reaches the crest which is bordered by the basins of the rivers Korumtor and Ayutor (both are tributaries of the river Maydantal). The information on this section of the ridge of the Ugam are not available at the moment (date 1977).

In the top right of the source of Baldabrek you reach the pass of Korumtor, leading to the Maydantal basin. Upper Baldabrek valley becomes a floodplain and along the banks of alluvial branches and talus, grow bushy banks of tall grass.

Just after the confluence of the last left tributary of the River Baldabrek, we begin to climb the first snow fields, limestone cliffs soon form a continuous length of 4 km higher. Snowfields continues a long time in the crunch of the valley. Then gradually the valley widens and we succeed in swampy areas above sea level, with some small lakes. At the next trail junction, the Korumtor pass is right above the valley.

Sources of the River Baldabrek are in a huge circus. Northeast is a pass at 3455 meters above sea level which allows going down into the Aksu valley. Southeast, the Korumtor pass is as “suspended” between two peaks provided with a huge snow cornice. The steep ice and the many crevasses do not allow us to climb "front" to this pass. It is better to go to a buttress on the northwest, toward the upper left (direction of the rise) and then back along the ridge to reach the pass. The climb of the buttress is simple, but tedious in the recognition of the route, requiring some precautions. The distance is only 1 km to Korumtor Pass (3300 m, 2A). Since the gorges, down the valley, it takes up to five hours to reach the pass. Then the descent on the other side, the length of the Korumtor river down to the Maydantal River, is a little over 12 kilometers.

The area described here so far is in the nature reserve Aksu-Dzhabagly. Remember that this reserve is very diverse and rich in fauna and flora. There are 1200 species of plants, including 16 species of trees, 62 species of shrubs, and no less than 200 species of medicinal plants. In the mountains there are tulips, crocus, bathers, anemones, primroses, forget-me and other flowers.

The animal world is also remarkable. In the nature reserve and its nearest foothills were recorded up to 238 species of birds, 42 species of mammals, 9 species of reptiles, two species of amphibians and fish.

Most wildlife is found in the belt of middle altitude mountains. This area is home to more than half of the number of birds in the reserve. Among mammals, there are foxes, badgers, martens, weasels and deer. In winter go down there: ibex, bighorn sheep, wolves and a few and too rare snow leopards. In the subalpine zone it is a particularly interesting place where brown bears take refuge in caves cliffs and dense thickets of creeping juniper. From there they go up in the summer to snow fields, in order to feed it the lush vegetation. For example they love the fallen wild apples. In lean years they can go down to the piedmont area.

To complete the description of the hikes in the reserve of Aksu-Dzhabagli, we will say more about the Korumtor Valley and the northern part of the Ayutor river, bordering the Baldabrek river. The descent from the pass of Korumtor first takes a desert scree. We find a visible track towards a lake moraine southwest, located at an altitude of 3200 m and powered by the flow of a glacier cirque, located 300 m above. Around the lake there are huge stone block. In the Korumtor circus there are two other small glaciers. The highest glacier at 3560 m, is the most one in the west, it stretches from the left edge of the slopes of the main ridge. Near the top of the glacier tongue, near the summit of 3610 m altitude, is a pass on the crest of the Ugam which also led to the Baldabrek Valley.

Downstream of the confluence of the sources of Korumtor river, a path leads to the right bank, then through the left bank. Initially, the river flows south-east, but soon it turns south, reaching its confluence with Maydantal.

In the lower reaches, the Korumtor receives a right tributary, the Karator-say (confluence at 2540 m). The Karator-say has two branches, whose waters come from a glaciers system on the peaks above. The left sourcee has its origin in a glacier cirque (1 km long) located on the slope of Peak 4083, the highest in the area. Three of the five glaciers are located immediately under the main ridge of the Ugam. The most important of them (1.5 km long) is located in the southeast. The climb of these glaciers is used to cross the main ridge and conduct us from Karator-say valley to the sources of Baldabrek river.

In the valley of Korumtor there is often widespread snow bridges over the river. Before the trail reaches the mouth of the river a few kilometers down, it crosses a big scree formed by large debris up to the same river bed. At 1 km from the mouth appear the first tree plantations, mainly birch, with a hint of Talov and shrubs. The tree density increases downstream. Before reaching the mouth of the river Maydantal, there is full of groves of trees forming real forests. They extend from the confluence downstream to the mouth of the Ayutor river and further.

The Ayutor River joins the River Maydantal right, The mouth is located 1.5 km downstream of Korumtor. The basin of the river Ayutor covers approximately 80 square kilometers. Among other feature there are 17 glaciers with a total area of 14 square kilometers. In relation to the total surface covered by the basin, the ice surface is thus relatively large. The Ayutor river finds its sources of several glaciers, especially placed on the larger absolute heights of the range of Ugam. Indeed upstream of one of the sources is the highest point of the crest of the Ugam, the Sayram Peak (4238 m or Sayramskiy).

The main direction of the valley is almost always right, from south-west to north-east, at the mouth of the river it suddenly changes direction towards the southeast. The length of the valley is about 15 km away. In the upper part of the valley it has a profile very marked of glacial trough, and there is in the course below many remains of glacial thrusting.

The trail leading to the top of the Ayutor river is along the right bank, sometimes it rise above the slope, to spend significant jumps on the river. About 5 km from the mouth, the forest zone disappears and only remain, on the slopes of the left bank, few tufts of junipers. The tops of the left bank are subject to direct sunlight, they are more dislocated than that of the right bank of the valley, built from solid gray rocks and a large basement monoliths.

In the lower course of the river Ayutor there is almost no tributaries, and it is only three hours' walk from the mouth of the river that one crosses the first (right) tributary. After 4-5 km further upstream the Ayutor takes the flow of a small tributary, and further upstream of the valley is the Chimkent pass (climbed in 1965 by Shymkent hikers). To do this we first climbed the grassy slopes, and a large scree. There on the right (uphill direction) the pass is visible on a jagged ridge like a citadel at the height of 3987 m. The scree continues with a stony lane 40° tilt and above starts the final moraine. Then there is a small glacier a kilometer long, with some crevasses, but it is easy to avoid them. The glacier slope weakens and gives way to a firn just before the crest in the final scree slope. The pass is located at the foot of the Peak 4092 m (on the right in the direction of ascent, 4101 on the map) and a tumbledown rock tower. The height of the Chimkent pass is 3850 m (II listing).

On the opposite side (West direction), we began a first slope of scree and 500 m of firn of tilt 50° north facing (rope insurance is required), and gradually move closer to the right edge of the glacier, where some small cracks are located. Most of them are longitudinal and can be opened with snow bridges. So it is better to keep on the right side to the lateral moraine.

Reached a lake, the trail begins to descend the river Kordjaïlau, but it turns above the confluence of its three tributaries. Further down the valley, the Kordjaïlau flows right into the Sayram-suu river. Before reaching a forest house in the valley, it takes about 15 kilometers away from the lake. From there, just follow the dirt road for the descent. Much lower, a road bridge crosses a tributary of Sayram, the Saryaygyr. The road is used for the gathering of milk, feeding village of Sandoz with dairy milk product.

We return now to the Ayutor Valley. The overall slope is not greater than 20°. The moraine ridges on the side tributaries climbs like banner. The walk through the valley is relatively simple: at a distance of over 10 km, the ascent is only 800 meters with an absolute height of 2880 m. The Ayutor receives a right tributary, which begins in the Ayutor-2 glacier. This Glacier circus extends over a length of about 4 km. In water feeding, this glacier is associated with the Ayutor-2A glacier. Not far from the glacier tongue rises a "Nunatak", from which another moraine start. The glacier area around the "Nunatak" is generally quite flat and sufficiently cracked. At 1 km from the moraine tree, wide frontal field carries materials with sharp edges where the ice flows are stronger.

At the top of Ayutor-2 Glacier is the pass Snegomernyi (pass of the snow height). Hikers do not pass on this glacier in general, they prefer to follow the passage of Ayutor-2A glacier, but the passage is possible nonetheless. Opposite the ice mouth of the river, is a characteristic cliff with concentric circular geological folds, as if they had been painted by the fantasy of nature. The mouth of torrrent is located at an altitude of 3050 m. Above the moraine began a steep frontal glacier tongue, then it flattens and again start a steeper slope of ice/snow. This is the passage taken by mountaineers and hikers through the Ayutor-2 glacier. The surface of the glacier is not heavily cracked and cracks are quite narrow and clearly visible, that crosses it from one end to the other. On the upper ridge of glacial cirque there are three depressions, on the rightmost of them (in the direction of the rise) is the Snegomernyi Pass (3630 m, the pass of the snow depth, 1B). The seat of the pass is completely covered with ice. Below the pass, on the descent of the opposite side is a measuring height of snow (hence the name of the pass). The workers of meteorological station come several times a year to record the snow level, this station is installed at the junction between the Maydantal and Oygaing (Pskem) (year 1977).

The last major glacier basin of Ayutor valley is the main source of the river. The configuration of the cirque is quite complex, so it is difficult to accurately determine the linear dimensions of the glacial cirque and the maximum elevation of the tongue. We only know that the open part of the glacier starts at an altitude of 3300 m, its surface area is about 3.8 square kilometers and its highest point is 4000 m (located in the northwestern part of the circus under the slopes of the peak Sayram). This glacier communicates with the valley at the sources of Sayram-suu river by Ayutor Pass (3600 m, 2B).

Downstream of the Ayutor river, the road runs along the wood (birch, Tal, poplar, ash, abundant bushes), climbing some foothills and then down to the water's edge. The waters of the river are very plentiful even at the end of the summer, and rush noisily among the many large blocks of stone in the bed. At the mouth of the valley of the River Maydantal, space is very large, and in its lower part it is covered with an abundance of grasses. Further downstream of Maydantal, facing left tributary of At-Djailoo, a hand path starts towards the valley of the right tributary Turpakbel. At the mouth of Turpakbel, the river falls sharply in the Maydantal, making impractical area to ford it. This is the reason why the trails start further upstream on the Maydantal.

At the confluence of Maydantal and Turpakbel valleys, the two rivers are wide, and the shores are covered with woody vegetation dominated by birch. The General Direction of Turpakbel Valley is from west to east. The north side is bordered by the Ayutor Basin, West Basin by the Anaulgen-say, the south by the Kaynazar-say River.

The trail climbs towards the valley and through the first left tributary of Turpakbel then down towards the main river banks, although it is far enough away from the water. Successive ascents and descents are not higher than 30° on a well-beaten path. At the second left tributary, the trail passes over a scree and then rises steeply on the moraine. The vegetation suddenly becomes poorer, and we already see the mountain cirques of the sources of Turpakbel river. The trail passes close to the merger of the two sources of the river, and we follow the left tributary.

Here the path encounters an old moraine and reaches a broad platform where usually horses graze. In the confines of the ledge on the three sides, there is an access to higher glacier tongues. In front of each of the glaciers, there are moraine deposits.

Sources of the River Turpakbel are limited to the height of the upper rocky ridge that goes from 3501 m to 3909 m. Under this crest there is small glaciers that are the sources of the river. The Turpakbel pass is to the right of a small glacier at about 3320 m above sea level and on the left of a larger glacier that rises higher elevations to 3909 m, where the watersheds of three rivers Ayutor, Anaulgen-say and Turpakbel meet. The various sources of Turpakbel merges at 2765 meters, the valley is a typical trough shape. The upper part of the left basin is occupied north by actual glaciers. In the upper part of the crest, the glacier also form a network of branched moraines. The lower part of the glacier tree is located at an altitude of 3100 m, the solid ice are 100 m above. In the upper part of the glacier, crossings are possible to the valleys of Ayutor and Anaulgen-say.

It is the right tributary that leads to Turpakbel pass. Located at an altitude of 2800 m, the trail climb goes up on a moraine which forme a sort of ledge. As long as we stay on the moraine, the trail is very visible, but once arrived in the snowfields, it loses and encounters the crevasses of the glacier. But the direction of the pass is readily detectable. It may remain the presence of a snow cornice at first before the pass. In order to get around without taking the risk of exposing from its dislocation, we prefer to climb the ridge on the left side to the crest then back down slightly to the Turpakbel pass (3264 m, 1A). On the other side it goes down to the basin of the river Anaulgen-say. South of Pass the rocky ridge is more cut.

The valley of the Anaulgen-say offers a magnificent landscape upstream of the river. But before this description, let's start with the downstream of the Anaulgen-say River where it flows into the Pskem. To this end, it is necessary to go down geographically the Maydantal to its mouth with Oygaing, then follow the right bank of the river Pskem until a road bridge over the River Anaulgen-say (about 35 to 38 km downstream, counting from the mouth of the river Turpakbel, 1300 m altitude, 7 km upstream from the village of Chatkal/Pskem).

Before the Anaulgen-say once opens into the broad valley of the Pskem river, the rocky valley forms a real "door". The trail climbs to the right bank. The valley has a general direction rather from North to South, with a length between 18 and 20 km. In the basin, the river sometimes flows south-west. Upstream the valley widens coating a changing aspect in altitude: rocks are less visible, junipers and pastures appear. Then the gorge narrows again where the waters of the Anaulgen-say rolls among the rocks, and the trail is located then sometimes 200 meters above the water. Then the valley widens again. Side slopes then become relatively mild and are covered with grass and juniper trees. The path here is not particularly difficult.

At about 13-15 km from the mouth of the Anaulgen-say, you have to ford the river (you must be careful on that passage because the water reaches the knees and has a width of up to 6 m). At 1 km upstream of the crossing, there is a good place to camp close to the woods and a large stone erected.

The erected stone and the camp are just over half an hour walk from the terminal moraine of the glacier Turpakbel and one must also count another hour until Turpakbel pass. On this section of the trail, we walk by the southern Turpakbel Glacier, along the left bank of the river and along a slope covered with grass and small flowers. Then the trail rises sharply above a projection of an old moraine to cross to the other side. Here begins the path that winds steeply up to 60° inclination to the pass. In some places, the trail crosses snowfields, where you can sink to the knee. Finally we reach the top of Turpakbel pass.

Glaciologists had counted up to 17 glaciers of small and large sizes in the Anaulgen-say valley. One of them is almost imperceptible during the ascent to the pass of Turpakbel. To the left and right of the pass, there are permanent snowfields, remains of a glacier that gradually disappears.

But back to the camp of the great monolith. Not far away merge two streams, which gives rise to the left branch of the Anaulgen. The creek flows right under the snowfields of a fairly marked valley. Before stepping on snowfields, the path goes along the right bank of the river, overcoming some obstacles in the foothills. The climb in the rocks is not very difficult: the slope does not exceeds 50° tilt. Above the tightening of the valley, it is more convenient to climb the right lane (direction of the rise) leading to a small upper snowfield. The altitude is 3060 m. Snow form scattered plaques, that is slowing our movement. Over the last moraine, we encounter a glacier. Since the moraine (3420 m), the ascending route becomes more complex. From there to reach the pass, it takes about an hour, depending on snow conditions. The total time from camp at the confluence of waters to the pas may take 8-10 hours for an elevation gain of about 1,000 m.

As we have previously stated, the Anaulgen basin includes 17 glaciers. The most powerful of them is located in the right part of the sources of Anaulgen river. It fit directly to the main crest of the Ugam range. At this point it reached an altitude of 3896 m. But we do not have more information about the passage of the pass there. If any information then existed, so mountaineers hikers could go to the sources of rivers Ayutor (passes to the north) and Sayram-say (passes to the west).

If you climb on the left arm of the sources of Anaulgen-say, taking a route slightly higher than the Turpakbel pass, we see that the detrital area on the ridge is especially powerful and that it extends partly into the lower valleys. The crest at this point is the edge of a sharp bend in the valley profile. Above the cornices, the strongly crumbled rocks on rugged mountains, are surrounded by steep debris that run into the valley, depressions are the remnants of ancient glaciers. The upper valley is shaped trough. It was previously occupied by a huge glacier, to the point of his inflection. Modern glaciers are no more than the remains of this ancient and gigantic complex icefield.

The leftmost glacier is interesting, despite its small size, in that it has formed a huge moraine that extends far into the valley. In the upper part of the main crest, this glacier forms a broad saddle.

The following describes the western glacier to the circus, the largest in the region. It is surrounded by steep walls, where snow remains generally in summer season. The glacial stream flows into a rather large and hollow channel and its length from the ridge to the end of his tongue was almost 1.1 km, with a width of more than 250 m. The beginning of the glacier is located at an altitude of 3300 m. On the surface, in the longitudinal cracks, it forms “bédières” of meltwater, but most cracks are mainly transverse on significant inflections of the slope, so that the upward movement of the glacier becomes more difficult. The ultimate moraine is very short with very steep slopes (up to 75°), the bottom of the moraine is located at an altitude of 2890 m. The glacier inflection is stronger on its right bank forming this side more and deeper crevasses.

Downstream, the trail on Anaulgen-say continues down towards the Pskem river, making frequent sharp turns in order to circumvent the foothills and many vertical walls that go directly down to the river. After 6-8 km descent, the trail reaches the heights of Pskem Valley, it continued for 1 km hillside to cross the bridge over the river Karakyz-say, a narrow gorge that leads next lower into the Pskem Valley. The terminal basin of Karakyz-say river forms a vast territory bordering several basins, like those of Sayram-suu, Sayragyr and Ugam rivers. The higher Karakyz-say, at the foot of the Peak 3512 m, is situated practically at the junction between the mountains of Ugam and those of Korzhantau. However, despite its location and extent, the river is hardly visited by hikers who have intentions to cross the crest of the Ugam at this location. We know that its glacial basin covers a total glaciation area of 2.3 km2 and the largest glacier extends along a narrow strip of 2.2 km long.

The trail that goes up the Karakyz-say, strongly starts for about 150 meters, then gradually descends to the river Agalyk-say (Ahala-say on the map) and then goes up regularly over a distance of about 7 km generally straight. Just below the Agalyk-say, the path is joined by that which comes from the road from the village on the Pskem river.

Before the village of Pskem in the valley, a path goes up to the northwest on the steep valley of the river Korumdzhol-say. The valley narrows after 3-4 km climb. The path in the narrow gorge is marked by numerous traces of avalanches, which partially masks its path. Here we must be very careful not to lose the trail, passing on the side rocks, which rises to the right (in the direction of the rise) of the slope. The climb is sometimes tedious, since the inclination is steep (35-40°) and the grassy slope that covers the end of the corridor is interspersed with boulders and small screes. After 3 km climb it is then able to join vast fields of detritus and debris that must be crossed between the rocky islets. The trail here is very poorly marked, it leads to the rock, and then from there to the higher Korumdzhol-say and the sources of Urungach-say, a left tributary. The trail rises to an elongated and flat saddle, lightly covered with scree. This is the pass of Korumdzhol whose classification in the Pskem region is 1A, 3570 m (border between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan).

Many hikers go to the Ugam valley through this pass, but sometimes they can be wrong on the way down. Having lost the track, it may either get down the rocky ledges of the source of left Urungash-say river, or continue straight along the main channel of Korumdzhol-say (opposite side). The two possible routes are more difficult in anyway (about 1B or 2A). In our opinion, there is the need to clearly demarcate the downward path: the descent on the left side of the Korumdzhol-say classified as 1A and through the side of left source of the Urungash-say, classified as 1B.

On the way down the pass, it is necessary to cross for a time through an area of screes and jumps, sometimes covered with snow. In the corridors, the snow is often dense and packed, caused by ancient avalanches. It takes an hour and a half walk before joining a squeeze along the river, it is then necessary to climb almost the summit of foothills of a slope to the left. All left tributaries of the upper reaches of the river Ugam are generally quite similar to each other, and on this side of the mountain, it is difficult to find a suitable pass to move on on the other side. From this point of view the passage of the crest of the Ugam is more convenient from the slope of the Pskem river.

3 km downstream of the village of Pskem, the dirt road makes a huge loop through the Urungach-say river valley, on a bridge. Along the river, there is a road junction following the bed and that leads to a bee farm (1977) on a 3 km track. The trail leads to a small reservoir on the river (60 to 70 m long, 25-30 m wide, with a height varying according to the season but may increase considerably). The trail passes on the west bank of the lake and continues to climb along the river.

Soon the water disappears under the rubble of scree and the access road to the upper pass is left. If you continue straight on, in the north-west direction, with no path through 7-8 km climb, we reached the main ridge of the Ugam, close enough to the Korumdzhol pass. On the left (in the direction of the rise) there is the pass of the Urungash named in the official classification the Uruk-say pass or Urungash (3400 m, 1B).

To get to this pass, turning left, the trail rises steeply from massive rocks interspersed with sections of debris, including the growing of impressive sizes juniper bushes. Only after a short rise of 50 m, it is difficult to find the path from the rubble in the area. The route is so well hidden in the right rocky valley, that it is easy to get wrong. This is directly in height on the axis and the front of the lake. The lake stretches along the valley for about 1 km and reaches a width of about 400 m.

Upstream of Lake, the trail departs somewhat from the water and then returns to the small lake formed at the confluence of two rivers Urumgach. These two rivers are created by downstream snowfields, directly down the slopes of the crest of the Ugam which here rises above 3500 m.

The eastern tributary of Lake upstream flows under the rocks, following the apparent bed of the river, it was not until downstream that it resurface from depths onto the lake. The valley in the spring is marked by numerous traces of avalanches. Above, the field has been expanded, but the slopes are steep to access it and frequently interrupted by debris of avalanches. Closer to the summit ridge of Ugam, there are many compact limestone outcrops. The Tashkent Mountaineers and hikers there been crossing the area in 1973, and noted the possibility of passing through four passes, with the most right (direction of the rise) named the pass "of Tashkent State University" or TashGY (3340 m, 1B). However, the increasing influx of hikers from the Urungash-say valley takes rather the leftmost pass to follow a lateral spine, followed by a direct access to the crest of the Ugam. This rise in the same valley can be listed 2A. The descent from the ridge to the Ugam valley is much easier: a gentle slope not exceeding 45° tilt which flattens downstream and leads to the circus. From there, there are 4-5 km to the river of Ugam.

The valley to the west of the lake is much larger than the left valley. The main ridge in the upper part of the watershed has a length of about 6 km between 3575 m and 3627 m. The descent into the Urungash-say river valley here is very complicated and difficult, through scree corridors that lead to steep cliffs. Mountaineers will have identified five mountain passes in the mountainous circus.

Under the passes called "lake" and "Paleozoic", there is a beautiful mountain lake, along a small left tributary of the Ugam river. To achieve such “Lake” pass, climb a strong 50° slope technically quite simple. The height of the pass of the lake is 3350 m.

If we continue to cross the ridge to the right, to the north, you can see a snow field and then the lake below. Go down to the lake can be much more difficult: the rocks here have a near vertical tilt up to 80°. As against to the south, there is the area of a large plateau along the ridge, which then falls by cliffs that dominate the Urungach-say valley. At the end of the plateau at the summit of 3627 m, you can descend to the valley by a corridor, which becomes progressively weaker in inclination. With the loss of altitude the snow slowly disappears and below in the circus appears under the snow and between the rocks, the shy flow of the river. Each meter the flow becomes more important. Following the rocky riverbed it goes down until the Urungash lake.

Continuing along road on the right bank, downstream the Pskem Valley, after the mouth of the Urungash-say, one crosses several small tributaries, and it bypasses several villages and the larger village Tepar. Here, the branch of a trail is near the small houses on the left bank at the mouth of a major tributary of Pskem, the Tepar-say. The sources of Tepar River begins just below the top of the ridge of Ugam (in its peak at 3627 m), bordered by the headwaters of the left tributaries of the Ugam, the Piazly-say, the Makbala-say and Hazarteke.

We have only some small indication about this route taken from rivers leading to Sesay pass. The road runs along the left bank of Tepar-say. The trail crosses the Kuruk-say (Kur-say on the map), its left tributary, and rises to the confluence of the Badala-say torrent (left) and Kykyz-say, a tributary where Tepar River begins. Then we must move on Badala-say until the confluence with the left tributary, the Uygurluu. Here we must raise onto the Badala-say river and ford crossing the stream from time to time to reach the Sesay pass. From the village of Tepar to this confluence which gives birth to the Badala-say river, it takes about 6-7 hours, and from the source to the ridge about 4 hours.

Back to the last confluence, up the course of Badala-say river, one reaches a jump and a slope of scree to 30°, then a partially stony corridor overgrown by grass. The corridor widens and turns to the left (uphill) to result in a circus in altitude 3138 m. In the left corner (direction of the rise) of the circus is situated the seat of the pass. The pass is traded on the left by a scree slope and after a steep snow slope. The pass is often defended by a strong cornice, and one need go around before reaching the Sesay pass (3300 m, 1B).

In the Sesay Pass area, start from the crest of the Ugam, a spur between the headwaters of rivers Makbala-say and Piazly (Piezely-say on the map). In the circus of Makbala River is a large lake possibly still partially covered with snow in early summer. The descent to the lake follows a series of moraine and grassy slopes. Down along the river Makbala-say, one must also ford the stream occasionally. It takes 1 hour 30 minutes to reach the lake in the Makbala Valley. The shape of the lake follows the contours of the valley, with 1 km length and width up to 500 m. The cliffs that fall directly into the water and the remaining snow of winter, give to the water a deep and disturbing blue appearance. In the West, there are boulders and a poorly marked trail on the soft side. The second tributary feeding the lake, is much less important.

A mound at the edge of the river is covered with dense grass, studded with bright colors touches, these are wild tulips. The lower part of the river Makbala is full of large rock, and presents a desert-like look, when going down through several steep couloirs from above. Further down the valley narrows, compressed between high limestone cliffs. The track sometimes disappears when we cross in swampy areas. From the Lake to the end of the descent, there are about 7-8 km trail.

When the thin blue line of the river in the valley Ugam becomes visible, one look for a path that rises on the left side (in the direction of descent). It takes around a big scree, then rises over the ridge and crosses the Tegermanbastau, heading down the river Chimbastau (Uchbastau on the map) to the bridge over the river the Ugam at the Chimbastau mouth. The direction of Makbala-say is not recommended because the wading passage of Ugam is especially dangerous!

Southwest of the source of the river Tepar-say, the crest of the Ugam form a vast plateau with a culminating Peak at 3385 m, in which the rivers Haramzade (Haramdzada-say on the map), Nauvali-say (tributaries of the river Pskem) and the Hazarteke-say, left tributary of the river Ugam, take their sources. The trail to this plateau in the rise from Pskem valley or Ugam can be classified as 1B. The area includes rides on detrital slopes towards the top 3385 m, when passing by the Nauvali-say River. The climb to the ridge can be achieved from the valley of the River Haramzade-say, but also from Nauvalis-say, knowing that the latter route is almost twice as long in time.

South-west of peak 3385 m on the range of Ugam, the elevation and the altitude of the crest decreases significantly (it rarely reaches the height of 2600 m, on average 200-250 m lower). The plateau of Peak 3385 we have mentioned above is of easy access at the beginning of the valley of the River Nauvali-say. The trail is very well marked along the river. Later the trail leaves the banks of the river to climb to the top of the crest of the Ugam, toward the Jahan pass (2368 m, 1A, Yahak on the map). For this pass, you can descend to the right (in the direction of descent), through the valley of a tributary of the Ugam River, until the promxitiy of mouth of the river Hazarteke or take to the left (direction of travel) along the ridge south direction through 4 km to reach the Mynchukurbel Pass (elevation 2300 m, 1A). This pass can also be recahed from the mouth of the Nauvali-say. In the Lower Nauvali-say (mouth), the river cuts through the surface of the old bed of Pskem and formed a kind of canyon through the conglomerates. Upper the beginning of the mouth, the valley continues on the rise with relatively gentle slopes, covered by forest (poplar, apple, walnut, Mirabelle) and thick grass. Going up to 6-7 km from the mouth of Nauvali-say, there is the whole beginning of an other trail that leads to a right tributary of Nauvali-say and climbs through 5 km the mountain slopes to the pass of Mynchukurbel.

The descent from the Mynchukurbel pass leads into the wide valley of the same name (Mynchukur-say River on the map) by scree slopes and along the river that must be forded several times. And it is only after reaching an abandoned tunnel that the trail appears. From there it is a 2 hour walk to reach the Ugam river. At this point for the cross of Ugam river, there is a steel cable with a suspended cradle.

A.7.8. The Sandalash Range

Cartography : maps 50 000th, k42-071-4; 100,000 th, k42-071, k42-072, k42-083; 200,000 th k42-18, k42-24.

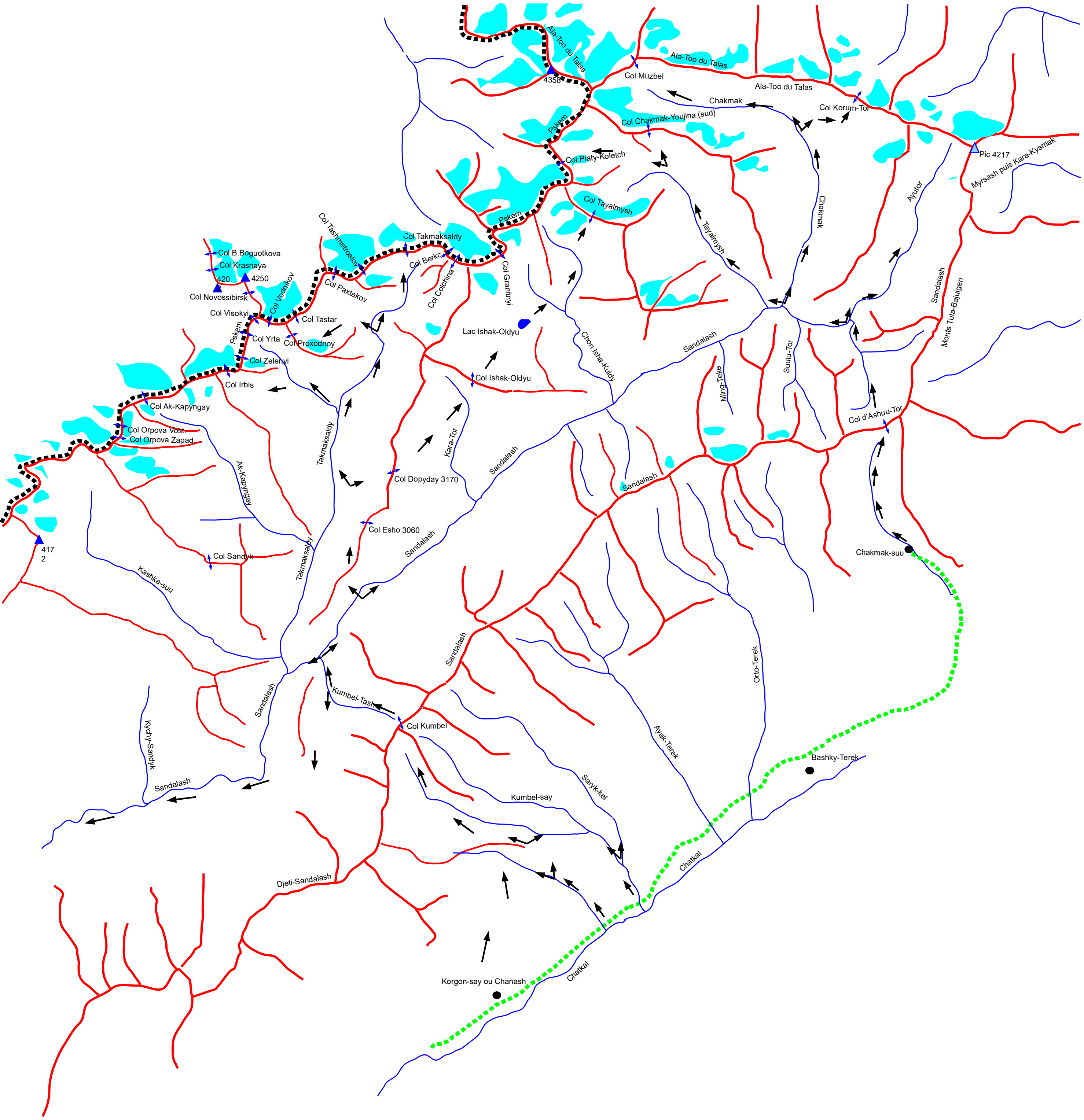
The slopes of the Sandalash mountains are located on the right bank of watershed Chatkal-Karakysmak. This ridge is born at the crest of the Talas Ala-Too, on a summit of elevation 4217 m (or 4202 on the map). This summit is the origin of the three sources of rivers Karabura (North Slope of Talas Ala-Too), Karakysmak (east) and Ayutor (Sandalash, west). The crest of Sandalash extends along an axis northeast and southwest of nearly 75-80 km parallel to the ridge of Pskem but on a lower extension. The Sandalash is located entirely in Kyrgyzstan territory. The ridge separates the Chatkal Basin of those of the Sandalash.

The southeast slopes of the ridge are cut by the various rights tributaries of Chatkal, often perpendicular to the edge. These tributaries are relatively long in the north-eastern part but become shorter and of a lower throughput as one descends to the southwest. On the side of the river Sandalash, most tributaries are short, almost without water, even temporarily dry. The cliffs often fall out of the river Sandalash. Therefore, most of the Sandalash valley is difficult to access, especially its banks, almost impassable in practice. Also for this reason, there is little evidence of detailed exploration of the range of Sandalash and its passes, not to mention the mountain sports activities, without actually known work.

From the heights of Mount 4217 m (4202 m on the map) to the pass of Ashuu-Tor (3388 or 3600), the extension of the mountain (a length of 15 km) is called Monts Tula-Baj-ulgen. On the southeastern side flows the right tributary, the Karakysmak and on the other side of the ridge is the original component of the Sandalash River, the Ayutor. The path to the Ashuu-Tor pass (3600 m, 1A) starts near the mouth of Chakmak-suu (eponymous village), along the road that runs along the right bank of Chatkal and spans nearly 15 km rise. From the crest of Sandalash to the Ayutor river, there are about 5-6 km downhill, about 4 km more to reach, downstream, the confluence of the Ayutor, the Chakmak and Tayalmysh, the three Rivers then forming the Sandalash. The descent is steep, across a distance of 10 km, one loses nearly 1000 meters.

At the confluence of Chakmak, the trail crosses the crest of the Talas Ala-Too. At 3-4 km from the crest of the Talas Ala-Too, the trail branches, to go right to the Korum-Tor pass, and to the left to go along the main channel of Chakmak. This last part is reaching the Chakmak glacier, source of its water, and then the trail turns to the right, to lead to the Muzbel pass (3916 m).

The Muzbel pass Glacier is located on the slopes at the birth of the crest of Pskem but we travel almost all the time in the high valleys of Sandalash, and the slopes of the mountain of Sandalash. Below is a tributary of Sandalash, the Tayalmysh, and including a more detailed description is not available here. However, the path goes in general through Tayalmysh river onto its glacial source on the slopes of Pskem. It leads to a pass located 30 km northeast (bird fly) from the Ashuu-Tor Pass.


Ala-Too du Talas
4358
Col Muzbel
Ala-Too du Talas
Ala-Too du Talas
Chakmak
Col Korum-Tor
Col Chakmak-Youjina (sud)
Pskem
Col Piaty-Koletch
Pic 4217
Myrsash puis Kara-Kysmak
Col Tayalmysh
Pskem
Chakmak
Ayutor
Tayalmysh
Col Takmaksaldy
Col Tashmetrostoy
Col B.Boguotkova
Col Krasnaya
420
4250
Col Novossibirsk
Col Berkc
Col Paxtakov
Col Colchina
Col Granitnyi
Col Vodnikov
Col Visokyi
Col Tastar
Sandalash
Monts Tula-Bajulgen
Pskem
Col Yrta
Col Proxodnoy
Lac Ishak-Oldyu
Chon Isha-Kuldy
Sandalash
Col Zelenyi
Ming-Teke
Suulu-Tor
Col Irbis
Col Ishak-Oldyu
Col Ak-Kapyngay
Col d'Ashuu-Tor
Col Orpova Vost.
Col Orpova Zapad
Takmaksaldy
Kara-Tor
Sandalash
Ak-Kapyngay
Col Dopyday 3170
Sandalash
417
2
Col Esho 3060
Chakmak-suu
Col Sandyk
Takmaksaldy
Sandalash
Kashka-suu
Sandalash
Orto-Terek
Sandalash
Kumbel-Tash
Col Kumbel
Ayak-Terek
Bashky-Terek
Kychy-Sandyk
Sandalash
Sary-kel
Kumbel-say
Chatkal
Djeti-Sandalash
Korgon-say ou Chanash
Chatkal

Orographic scheme of Sandalash Range

One of the main trails leading through the crest of Sandalash begins at the village of Chanash, at the edge of Chatkal where several tributaries flow into the valley. One can reach the Kumbel pass (3250 m). At left hand, this part of the main ridge of Sandalash also bears the name of Djeti-Sandalash. The slope of Sandalash River basin is short (about 6-7 kilometers) and quite steep with a loss of altitude of 1200 m. The descending trail follows the course of the river (Kumbel-Tash). It joins the path that climbs the left bank of Sandalash from about 12-14 km (south-west) and then passing the ford of Kumbel-Tash river. At this point, the left bank Sandalash trail climbs on a good slope to bypass the deep gorge of the river. Moreover, if one goes up in Sandalash left side, there are also another path from the left that crosses the Pskem mountain range, going up the Takmaksaldy River Valley to the Takmaksaldy pass 3627 m.

Some passes are used by cattle farmers, they are at the southwest end of the ridge of Sandalash. But here the space is widely used by the extensive grazing of livestock, and hiking objectives have less interest.

Let us briefly expose some characteristics of the watershed of the river Sandalash. Its watershed is about 1200 square kilometers, a length of 89 km. In many places, the course of the river suddenly changes direction. The Sandalash receives water from many tributaries: the main of them are born on the slopes of the range of Pskem: Kainsu, Kourgan-Tioube, Chukursu, Talyksay, Achiktash, Karayangryk, Takmaksaldy, Chong-Ishakuldy and Tayalmysh.

The Sandalash Alpine area is highly dried with some traces of glaciation, mainly in the axial portions of the ridge. Here we find clearly visible signs of ancient glacial valleys forming hollow erosion of flow, sometimes there are even more recent traces of glaciation. The mountainous circuses drained a significant rise of moraine material. In winter, on high-altitude, there is often very heavy accumulations of snow, which explains the persistence of existing glaciers as the main feeding source of water, despite drought on climate. In this region the debris and detrital rocks were widespread and the vigorous flow of water has contributed to the strong fragmentation of the relief. In many places of Sandalash valleys and its tributaries, there are impassable canyons and very steep rocky slopes. It is not uncommon to encounter 1200 m altitude gain between the top and the bottom of the course of rivers.

In the Sandalash basin, there are a few ancient remains of leveling surfaces. These sites are located on the middle reaches of the river Chong-Sandyk, Kichik-Sandyk, Djety-Sandyk, the Sandyk Mountains or Etty-Sandal. The surface of the Etty-Sandal has left tributaries of Sandalash strongly dried up. These tributaries flow into deep gorges, sometimes through inaccessible canyons, while their watersheds are rather flat.

Downstream of the river, at an altitude of 1500-2600 m, the relief is bland, and the watershed slope is almost insignificant. Amid the Sandalash Valley, most of its tributaries are easily accessible. However, at the vicinity of the village of Kourgan-Tioube, to the right of Sandalash, the Kainsu river flows through a narrow valley with slopes of intense debris. The deep gorge was formed through a surface of rocks resistant to erosion. Most of the gorges of the regions are tributaries of Sandalash.

A.7.9. The crest of Kokcu

Cartography: maps 100,000 th, k42-081, k42-082; 200 000 th k42-23.

On the upper reaches of the Pskem river, the crest of Kokcu is parallel to that of Pskem and dominate the sources of the Ihnahch river, it covers nearly 60 kilometers away. Between the two ridges run the Kokcu waters flowing into the Chatkal at the village of Burchmulla. The slopes of the two sides of the river are extremely steep and rocky, often almost vertical. The Kokcu river therefore flows through deep gorges and over half of its course in the valley is impassable. Only passages are possible in October for tourists from Tashkent, when there is very little water in the river, and in some places, have use of little air mattresses. The valley is blocked in some places by towering rocky rubble, having formed four lakes. The most recent obstruction occurred in the spring of 1969 following a gigantic landslide.

At a distance of 30 km from the mouth of Kokcu is the village of Ajryk. From the mouth of the valley, the structure of the Kokcu resembles a rosary along the extension of the thousands of rock stations, intersecting and sawing the river gorge. This part of the river is seldom visited by excursionists. The highest peaks of the crest of the Koksu are the Peak Ak-Tash (3482 m) and the Peak Kazanbulak (3369 m).

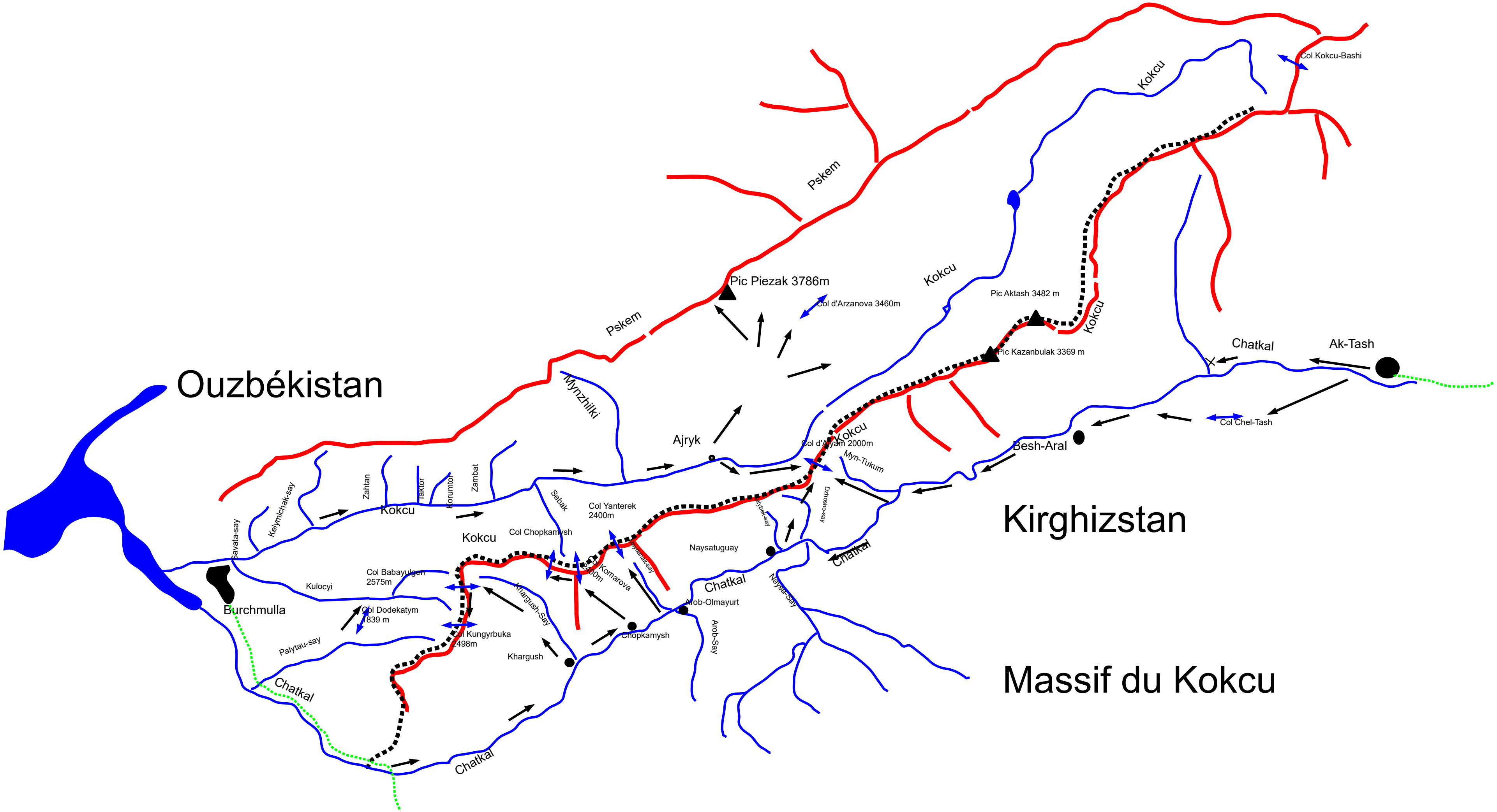
The Ajryk village lies at the confluence of a right tributary of Kokcu river (altitude 1500 m). In the shade of birch, poplar and talov is a few small houses and a significant operating honey farm surrounded by a multitude of hives.

At 7-8 km downstream of Kokcu from the village of Ajryk is the mouth of the river Mynzhilki a right tributary of Kokcu. Halfway, you can see the remains of the lake, which was formed in 1969 by a huge landslide and finally emptied into the river, and the water finally won the rest of the natural dam.

Below the river Mynzhilki, the trail passes on the left bank of Kokcu and rises well above the valley floor and then suddenly goes down to groves of trees, to reach the river. Here campers usually settle in for the night. The Kokcu, on both sides, under pressure from the cliffs from a height 20-25 m, here forms a canyon no wider than 5 m. But because of the great depth of the water the river flows quietly. It is a beautiful place called the "slot". Immediately after the canyon of the "slot", the valley widens and one can wade across the river to the descent of the slope of Kokcu.

In descending the Kokcu after the "slot", the trail passes through small and large rights tributaries of Kokcu: The Zambat, the Korumtor, the Taktor, the Zahtan, etc.. Then the trail climbs onto the right bank foothills then returns down to the river, where there are few birch groves mixed with poplars and in some places, hawthorn and plum groves. The left tributaries of Kokcu are low in water and most of them have dried up when we go upstream. The largest of the left tributaries is the Sebak river.

Soon you reach the junction with the trail coming from the mouth of the river Chavata-say. It is just 5-6 km from the village of Burchmully. The trail crosses the sunburned slopes quite rather distant from water, then after through the dry riverbed of the Ustara-say and then joins the road. The Kokcu joins here, one of his few left tributaries, the Kulas-say. From Burchmully, it is possible to return to Tashkent by bus.


Ouzbékistan
Kirghizstan
Massif du Kokcu
Pskem
Pskem
Pskem
Pic Piezak 3786m
Col d'Arzanova 3460m
Kokcu
Kokcu
Kokcu
Col Kokcu-Bashi
Pic Aktash 3482 m
Pic Kazanbulak 3369 m
Chatkal
Ak-Tash
Col Chel-Tash
Besh-Aral
Col d'Alyam 2000m
Kokcu
Myn-Tukum
Dzhosho-say
alybek-say
Chatkal
Naysatuguay
Ajryk
Mynzhilki
Sebak
Col Yanterek
2400m
Col Chopkamysh
Col Komarova
2400m
Maydanak-say
Chatkal
Arob-Olmayurt
Arob-Say
Naysa-Say
Chopkamysh
Khargush
Khargush-Say
Col Kungyrbuka
2498m
Col Babayulgen
2575m
Col Dodekatym
1839 m
Kokcu
Kokcu
Zahtan
Taktor
Korumtor
Zambat
Kelymichak-say
Savata-say
Kulocyi
Burchmulla
Palytau-say
Chatkal
Chatkal

Hikers usually go upstream of Kokcu when they want to cross the crest of Pskem and reach the Arzanova Pass on north (Peak Piezak 3786 m) or when they realize in the region a "Alyamskomu roundtrip", crossing the Alyam Pass (Kokcu main crest, 2000m). The other passes on the crest of Kokcu are generally more easily accessible from the Chatkal Valley (Kyrgyzstan).

What are the paths from the crest of Kokcu, which allow descent to the Chatkal river? First of all, it must be said that on southwest of Koksu-Bashi-P Pass to Alyam Pass, hikers traverse is difficult. There have been a few attempts in the Chatkal to do so, but most of them were unsuccessful. The transition from a large part of the ridge of Kokcu is therefore practically inaccessible.

In the village of Ak-Tash (Kyrgyzstan), at the edge of Chatkal, a road bridge crosses the river to get to the right bank of the Chatkal. This precarious bridge construction may sometimes be temporarily broken. A good way also appears much further down the Chatkal in the sector of Nayzatuguay village. Other trails leading to the pass of Alyam lies upstream on the Chatkal.

In the valley of Kokcu, at the height of the village of Ajryk a bridge crosses the river. From here begins the path to the pass of Alyam. The trail rises gradually, passes groves of trees and bushes, crosses several streams and snow fields in spring and early summer, and then leads to the pass. The journey time is about 2 hours from Kokcu to Alyam Pass (2000 m, 1A).

Since the slope overlooking the Chatkal, there are two ways to reach the pass of Aylam. The first, from the village of Nayzatuguay a short track goes down right, then passes under the summit 2200m (2155 m on the map) and leads to the Dzhosho-say river valley about 2 km above the village and then climbs towards the pass.

The second path is longer (about 20 km), more complicated, but more interesting. Going up during the Chatkal Valley, left to the pass of Aylam, is the first valley encountered, that of Kalybek-say River. After 5 km on the trail along the river you cross a cascade of 10 meters with the rope. From there, you have another hour to reach the Myntukum river on the right bank of Chatkal and 2 hours walk from Nayzatugay. Beyond the path (towards Northwest) follows the Myntukum then reach the pass of Aylam.

The surroundings are picturesque. In the shade of trees (birch, Tal, poplar, walnut, cherry plum, apple, hawthorn) is the house where lived the hydrologists. In Chatkal we sin lot of fish. The river has a few baskets and fishing net.

If you go down on the course of Chatkal, after 4 km, there is a new crossing over the river, a metal cable with a cradle, which provides access to the opposite bank, on the village of Arob. And on the right bank there is the hives of Olmayurt. Before you approach it, the trail crosses a small tributary of Chatkal, the Maydanak river. On the heights of the mountain is the Yanterek Pass (2400 m, 1B). The climb to the pass is made without trail route, avoids some dense thickets of thorny bushes. The height difference is quite large and the final rocky slopes are somewhat steep, just before the pass. The descent on the opposite side is of a similar height difference, without path also leads to the shores of Koksu, then at a place called the "slot".

At 2 km downstream of the Olmayurt apiary, lies the village of Chopkamysh. From there, a path rise to the Kokcu crest, it leads to the Komarova pass (2400 m, 1B). The rise of the trail is quite similar to that of Yanterek pass. Only the descent to the Kokcu is easier, because in this place there are trails, especially via the Sebak River Valley. 2 km to the west of the Komarova pass is the Chopkamysh pass which is reached by following the same track.

4 km downstream from the village of Chopkamysh begins a path from the village of Khargush. There is also an apiary at this location. The Khargush-say river is one of the largest tributaries of the Chatkal river in the area. The path follows the course of the river Khargush-say, then disappears at the confluence of Khargush-say upstream. From there, you go up along the river, left, on the stony edges, sometimes very close to the water, sometimes

atking ford on the river to get back on the rocks later. In some places we encounter small waterfalls, until a new river confluence (about 5 km from the mouth of Khargush-say). To locate it, there is a visible spot consisting of a huge shiny stone that also divides the streams, and over which we must move. And just above the trail appears again. At the top of the rock the trail climbs through junipers pastures and the rise continues on 4-5 km to reach the Babayulgen pass (2575 m).

Right, northwesterly direction, from the Babayulgen pass, a footpath goes along the main ridge towards the Sebak River, the Yanterek pass and further, to Koksu river. This trail is not noticeable in many places because it is rarely used. From the pass, barely visible, the Canyon Kulocyi is located below. Another path leads to the left to the Kungyrbuka pass (2498 m). You can cross theses two passes in any order and direction, both are listed 1B.

After crossing the last Kungyrbuka pass (2498 m), the trail joins the right bank of the river Palytau-say. On the way, we meet the following shrubs, deciduous trees, lots of roses and blackberries. In the birch pointing to the right, the path goes through a small pass (Dodekatym 1839 m) and leads to the gorges of Kulocyi, left you reach the Chatkal. In the valley of the Palytau river below the eponymous village, there is a prehistoric cave, where archaeologists have conducted excavations for a few years. Not far away, from a narrow dark rocky slot, a river falls from a height of almost fourty meters. After a one-hour ride down we reach the road, and a bridge over the Chatkal. From there, the Lake Charvak is clearly visible.

A.7.10. Mountain ranges of Sargardon and Kumbel

Cartography: maps 100 000th, k42-093, k42-094; 200 000th k42-23 border between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan

Between the passes of Arashan and Tura-say on the crest of Chatkal, almost at right angles, it deploys a powerful mountain range, the Sargardon ridge. At 10 to 12 km of the latter, it borns a small range, the Kumbel crest, again at right angles. The crest of Sargardon is toward the northwest, while that of Kumbel goes to the Northeast. Ridges and spurs share their different watersheds of many tributaries of Chatkal. The two largest of them are Akbulak and Terc. The distance between theirs sources and the mouth on the Chatkal, is nearly 60 km away.

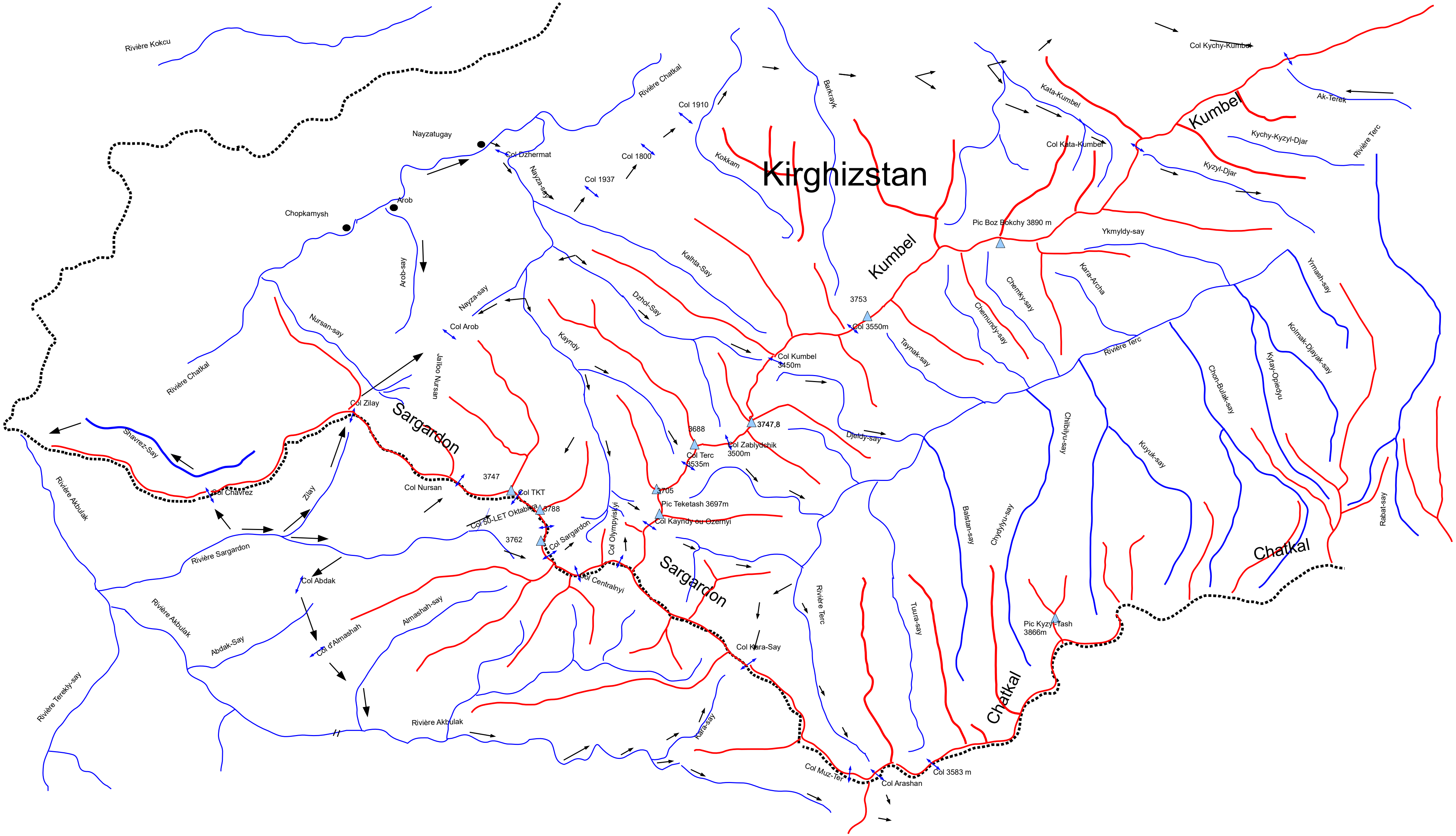
This mountainous region has a relatively large number of watersheds that contribute significantly to the Chatkal water supply. The water in most rivers comes from melting of vast fields of eternal snow located in their headwaters.

The arc of the crest of Sargardon comes along the right edge of the river Akbulak. The ridge has a slightly dislocated character: summits, flat, wide and interspersed with lots of debris between resistant granite towers. The highest point of the ridge is located at 3762 meters, the average height is about 3000 m.

To access the different passes of the Sargardon range, it is best to start with the Akbulak Valley. Here it is possible to drive and climb from the village Burchmully. This relatively deserted road runs along the right bank of the Chatkal and then along the right bank of the Akbulak. About 10 km from its mouth, it joined its main right tributary, the Sargardon river. Here the road splits: on one hand we continue to go up the Akbulak, and on the other you take the uphill road of Sargardon 7 km further. At a turn on the road, up a tunnel begins the Upper Sargardon. From the tunnel on the left you can go to the pass of Chavrez (2112 m). The seat of the pass is wide and the road climb to the pass takes less than two hours, because it is not a strong vertical drop (1600 m-2100 m). From Pass Chavrez you can descend along the Chavrez-say River to its mouth in the Chatkal and then follow the left bank of Chatkal to reach the bridge over the river.

The track that goes up the headwaters of the river Sargardon is a good track. It was the right bank some distance from the bed of the river, crossing several small tributaries and then down to the water, crossed by a bridge, the Zilay creek and approach houses inhabited by shepherds and foresters. Here, the valley is quite wide: the Sargardon receives both sides some small tributaries. Trails radiate in all directions, furrowing the small houses in the valley.

Towards the south, the trail leads to the pass Abdak (2100 m) and the pass of Almashah (2215 m) and bypasses the Akbulak valley over two of its rights tributaries. Both passes are respectively 5 km and 12 km from the bed of Sargardon.


Rivière Kokcu
Rivière Chatkal
Col 1910
Col Kychy-Kumbel
Barkrayk
Kata-Kumbel
Ak-Terek
Kumbel
Nayzatugay
Col Dzhermat
Col 1800
Kokkam
Kirghizstan
Col Kata-Kumbel
Kychy-Kyzyl-Djar
Rivière Terc
Kyzyl-Djar
Col 1937
Nayza-say
Chopkamysh
Arob
Pic Boz Bokchy 3890 m
Ykmyldy-say
Kumbel
Arob-say
Kalhta-Say
Kara-Archa
Yrmash-say
Chemky-say
Dzhol-Say
Nayza-say
3753
Chemundy-say
Nursan-say
Col Arob
Col 3550m
Kayndy
Kolmak-Djayak-say
Taynak-say
Rivière Terc
Col Kumbel 3450m
Jailoo Nursan
Kytay-Opiedyu
Rivière Chatkal
Chon-Bulak-say
Col Zilay
Sargardon
3688
3747,8
Chilbilyu-say
Djeldy-say
Shavrez-Say
Col Zablydchik 3500m
Col Terc 3535m
Kuyuk-say
3747
Col Nursan
Col TKT
3705
Rivière Akbulak
Col Chavrez
Zilay
Pic Teketash 3697m
3788
Col Olympyiskyi
Col 50-LET Oktabria
Col Kayndy ou Ozernyi
Balstan-say
Chydylyu-say
Rabat-say
3762
Col Sargardon
Rivière Sargardon
Sargardon
Chatkal
Col Centralnyi
Col Abdak
Rivière Terc
Almashah-say
Rivière Akbulak
Tuura-say
Pic Kyzyl-Tash 3866m
Abdak-Say
Col d'Almashah
Col Kara-Say
Rivière Terekly-say
Chatkal
Rivière Akbulak
Kara-say
Col Muz-Ter
Col Arashan
Col 3583 m

Orographic scheme of mountains of Sargardon and Kumbel

To the north, the trail reaches the pass Zilay (2425 m). After 5-6 km, passing the middle reaches of the river Zilay (tributary of Sargardon), the trail leads to Nursan, a vast mountain pasture (jailoo), known among hikers as Arob Pass (2612 m). The passage of two passes is listed 1A. On jailoo (summer pastures), the left leads towards another pass at the Arob-say valley. In less than an hour, it goes through a landscape of small narrow and sharp valleys. Then the valley widens, merging several of these narrow valleys, it is there finally the descent to the Chatkal Valley. The river is 2.5 km downstream. On a flat terrace on the left bank of the Chatkal, there is a grove of poplars and some wild fruit. There is also some houses which is the village of Arob. At this place to cross the river Chatkal, residents have placed ropes and cables with a cradle for the passage.

If this passage device is not present, going up from the shore of Arob-say to the northeast, after 5-6 km the trail leads to the turbulent river Kaindy. On its shores and islands of the river runs a long narrow birch grove on almost 5 km. It is possible to leave the woods on a trail southeast to join also well above the upper Sargardon.

The "placer" rock are more important at the top of the sources of Sargardon. Its upper ridge is clearly separate from the highest point of triangular shape. The silhouette of the summit stands out clearly in the sky. On the left (downstream direction) from the top is the Sargardon pass (3235 m, 1B), right, the TKT pass (TashkentTourists Club, 3500, 1B). To achieve the two passes of the mountainous circus it takes about an hour.

In the southeast corner of the circus is the peak 3762 m, right next to the east lies the 50-letiya Oktyabrya Pass (3450 m, 1B). By joining it, you can switch into the parallel valley of the River Almashah-say (same side of Sargardon), a rather short river (12-14 km), but its gorges are virtually impassable. However from the mouth of the Almashah-say on Akbulak, a track starts, which we follow until it birfuque out of the bed of the river. Then continues to the right, along the river bed to a more narrow gorge, which can be reached easily. On the way, the rocky passages are of medium difficulty. Early in the season there is the presence of stones and snow bridges. The last part of the route to be overcome, runs throug the left and reaches up to the ridge, in the horseshoe formed above the upper course and sources of Almashah-say.

The last three cols described above provides access on the opposite side of Sargardon, the sources of the Kaindy river. On the way down the slopes of this side are particularly steep (up to 60°), but without too much danger, it is even possible to practice a little “slipping" on the less steep parts. However, on this side of Kaindy river, some pretty slippery snow-covered roads cling even late in the season, but you can always find a place to get around them. In the middle of a huge circus, you reach a lake surrounded by snow banks, fed by meltwater, upstream the are five small glaciers (the largest has an area of 0.8 km2). Here begins a series of rocky placers, between which the river flows. Here we have to go on the rocks on the right side of the circus: lowest fording becomes more difficult. Because after leaving the circus, the Kaindy becomes a raging river. It's a two-hour walk from the path of the crest of Sargardon.

This trail down the Kayndy along the right bank of the river. There is no tree for 3-3.5 km password before joining a right tributary of Kayndy. The mouth of another back back the valley of the tributary, and one can reach the highest Terc River Valley. Next the altitude of the snowline in the season, the trail ends more or less near the pass. First of all the way through patches of wet snow, which soon becomes continuous with altitude snow. The enneigment parfoit can be so important that it sinks to his knees. Here and there in the morning or evening, you can admire the blue spots of the translucent ice.

On the heights of the river to the south, under the pass is the Teketash peak (3697 m) and once past the pass, this summit is clearly visible to the east about 2 km away. The circus of the Terc pass, or "Fresh Air" pass (3508 m, 1B) is a fairly gentle climb. The pass is covered with light gravel, sometimes with stunted grass. The climb and the descent into the Terc valley is approximately of equal difficulty. From The mouth on Kaydy to the pass the distance is about 8-10 km. Both outgoing river from the Teketash heights begin in circuses of firn and appear at the end of a small moraine, the result of demolition and debris from rock avalanches. Almost immediately on the descent of the river, the trail turns right, and at an altitude of about 3000 m, the track appears under the snow here and there. It is hardly noticeable. The valley tacks and the road is mainly on the left bank of the river and at 1 km from Terc it joins the right bank.

The path on the course of Kaindy continues downhill, passing through several wetlands. The trail sometimes gets lost between shrubs and it is usually nearby groves of wood. Halfway the course, the Kayndy river joins the left tributary Nayzinka on which there is a trail leading to the pass of Arob (2612 m). From this location, you can cross the Kayndy and climb above its left bank, following the trail that winds to reach the pass of Dzhermat (1800 m or 1495 on the map), and head towards the Chatkal that can be crossed by a cable with cradle. On the right bank of Chatkal gorge lies the village of Nayzatugay.

From the confluence of the Kaindy with the Nayzinkoï, another path leads to northeast, parallel to the Chatkal, which rises in the foothills and then passes through several valleys and rivers, reaching directly the upstream of Chatkal just below the mouth of the river Terc. Then, after the Kaindy valley, you can reach that of Dzhol-say. These two rivers, merging, form the main tributary of the river Nayza, then after the Chatkal. The rise of the Dzhol-say River is achieved onto the Kumbel pass (3448 m, 1B), leading to Terc Valley. Parallel to Dzhol-say runs the Kalhta-say and its valley. Both rivers at their mouths have deeply eroded the sediments, forming deep and steep gorges.

The trail of general direction Northeast then rises again, and goes down after to the Katta-Kumbel River about 15 km after the Kalhta-say. Then turning left we join the village of Besharal located on the shore of Chatkal or by joining on the right, the Katta-Kumbel pass (2926m, 1A). And if we continue on the main trail to the Katta-Kumbel pass, 4-5 km it presents a branch. The path to the left leads to the village of Ak-Tash on the Chatkal with a bridge to cross it. The path to the right leads to the pass-Kichik Kumbel (2442 m) to spend in the Terc Valley, and the path joins the shore below.

Now let us back to the valley of the Akbulak (Uzbek side of Sargardon, to go up to the upper sources of the river and the origins of Terc river on the other side (Kyrgyz). Upstream of the mouth of Sargardon, the dirt track runs through the left bank of the Akbulak a while and then comes back on the right bank. Later (8km) we joined the mouth of the left tributary the Koshman-say River. On this site, there is a road junction to the Serkely-say valley (or Terekly-say on the map). Approximately 3 km after the mouth of Koshman-say, near the mouth of the Arpapay River, is the cabins of an abandoned village, named Akbulak where starts another track in Arpapay valley. 1km after, the trail reaches a pedestrian bridge over the Akbulak to cross on the right bank.

In the valley of the Akbulak, from the mouth of Koshman-say, one rises gradually to the mouth of Karasay (about 20 km) on a vertical drop of almost 1000 m. Sometimes we walk in flood plains, covered with forest. Sometimes you get high on the mountain slopes to bypass the cliffs. Dense vegetation (birch, Tal, shrub) covers the slopes and the bed of the river, which suggests its course only on breakthroughs. In some places, the river is crossed by temporary bridges for livestock.

Halfway on the Kara-say Valley, the Akbulak forms beautiful meanders. Early in the season there is still snow fields in the side canyons and snow bridges permit us to cross to the left bank. Here, the trail climbs on a small spur to join downhill Kara-say after its mouth. The path to the altitude 2300 m joined a relatively stable place covered with sparse grass and totally devoid of trees. Only on a few places, you can see some creeping junipers. In the same vicinity of the Akbulak, on 2 km valley, two tributaries flow and join, the Kara-say (right) and the Tura-say (left). At 5-6 km north of the region, following the valley of Kara-say, you come to the Kara-say pass (3226 m, 1A), then on the Kyrgyz side of Terc sources.

Above the confluence of the Tura-say and Akbulak, the Tura-say valley runs almost at right angles to the south. At the bottom of the Turasay valley, an upper pass can reach the sources of Akbulak and its upper valley. The climb to the pass has a vertical drop of 800m. Immediately, the route follows the good right bank slope, crossing small wild streams of melting snow, while the left bank of the Tura-say is dark and steep. The saddle of the pass, clearly visible from a distance, closes by lateral buttresses when you approach and it is only 500 m before, that the pass itself becomes visible. The wide saddle of pass Turasay (3155 m, 1B, focus error on the map at the 100 00th, where the Turasay pass is actually the Davan Pass, see 200 000th) is often covered by deep powder snow (at least in the beginning season and autumn).

The upper valley of the Arashan has already been described (Angren plateau, the Akhangaran Valley, see further). Therefore through the pass of the eponymous Arashan to explore the upper valley of Terc. The upper part of the river is almost always under snow. It is a beautiful panorama crowned by the snowy peaks that separates the basins of Terc and other tributaries of the river, except the Akbulak tributary of Chatkal. The crest of Kumbel crowned with eternal snow covers nearly 30 km. The average height is about 3300 m, but some peaks reaching 3800 m. From the Katta-Kumbel pass, the southern ridge of Kumbel headed northeast, and the craggy Kumbel crest gradually immersed in interspersed and powerful rock layer and then contours of the range become softer.

First on the northwest slope, the terrain is cut with sharp signs of ancient glaciations. The south-eastern slopes, forming the left side of Terc, present this gentle relief well grassed, and traces of ancient glaciation. There are few permanent snowfields in the shaded areas. Therefore, the left tributaries of the Terc are rather dry. The right tributaries, beginning on the north slope of Chatkal, come from these snowy slopes, so they abound water profusely in the Terc.

The descent from the pass of Arashan is steep and often snowy. It must then make a slight shift to the right, to reach the terraces where snow becomes more diffuse. Here on the left you reach the mouth of a small tributary, which one achieves up to the Kara-say pass (3226 m). On the climb there is a path. The Terc trail then follows the right bank of Terc, and long after it crosses the path from the Terc pass, it passes on the left bank and almost all along the Terc to its mouth in the Chatkal. On the way there is possibility to turn left towards the passes of Kumbel, Katta-Kumbel and Kichik-Kumbel.

The Terc flows into the river Chatkal, on a bed of hard granite. Near the mouth of Terc there is a road bridge across the river. From there you can reach by walking the village of Yangi-Bazar, from where you can take a bus or car out of the Chatkal Valley.

A.7.11. Angren Plateau, Ahangaran

Cartography : Maps 100,000 th, k42-093, k42-094, k42-095, k42-105 and k42-106; 200 000 th k42-29.

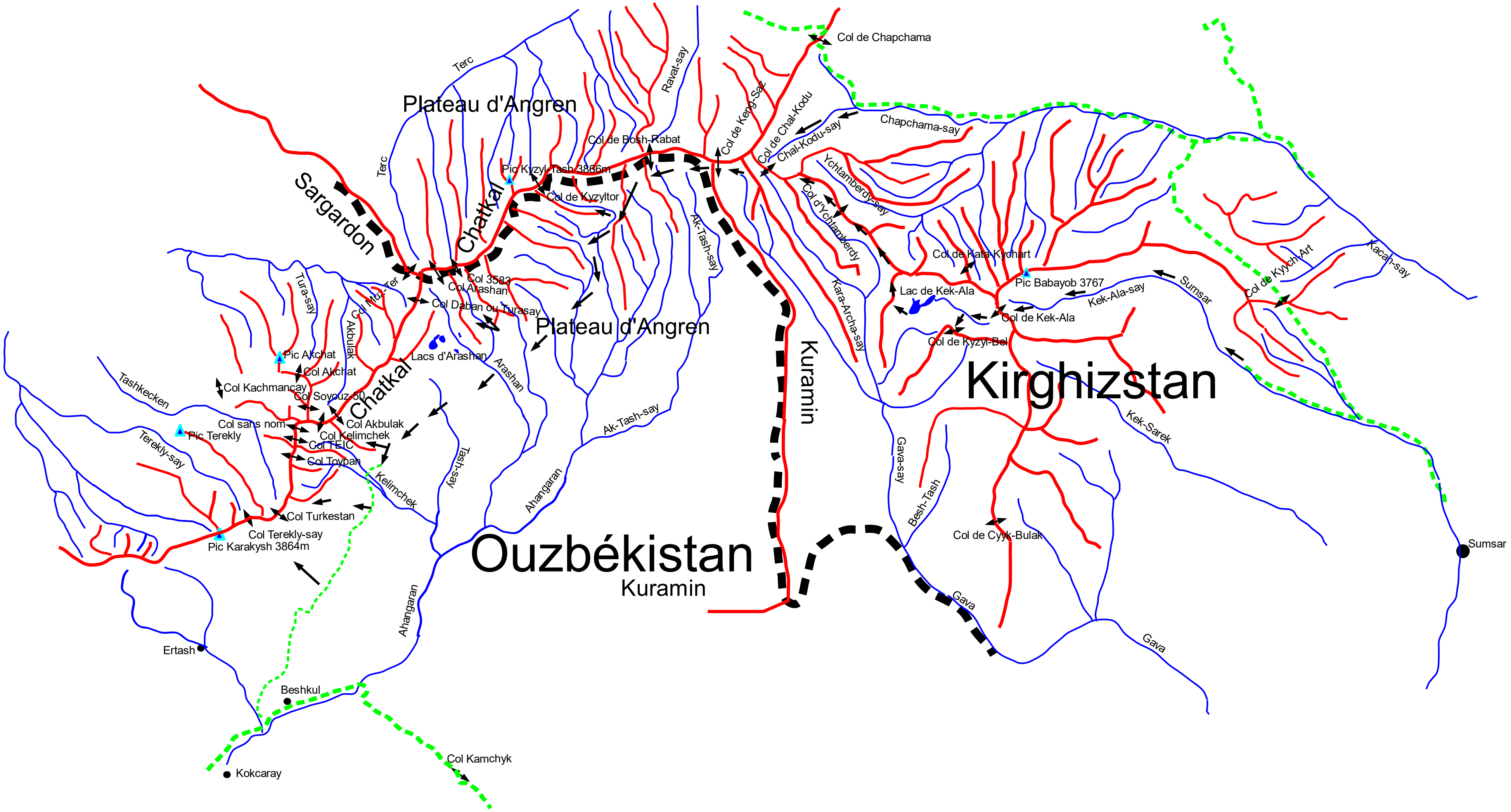
The plateau of Angren, whose surface is about 1200 square kilometers, is a former abrading surface, the result of intensive development of erosion. The highest point of this plateau is at 3,400 m, and the lowest point is between 2100 to 2400 m altitude. The plateau is home to many sources of rivers: the Ahangaran (Angren), the Kasan-say, the Gava-say (Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan border), the Chadaka, etc.. Most of the rivers that begin on its top land, have left here deep gorges, forming truly steep canyons and some of it, like the waters of Gavay, Boz-Teke, the Karaar-Say and Dickey are impassable. The upper plate of Gava-say area is divided into two unequal parts, each of which has a slope and elevation of different surface.

There are different ways to get on the plateau of Angren, particularly in the north. The fastest and most convenient is to take the road pass of Chapchama (Kyrgyzstan). Here is the origin of rivers Kasan-say, Chapchama and Chal-Kodu. A few kilometers before arriving at the road pass of Chapchama, it engages in the path that goes up the Chal-Kodu Valley. It's a good upstream mountain track across 13 kilometers to reach the mountain pass of Chal-Kodu (3300 m). Another path to the plate through the hills runs above the Sumsar river valley (north side of Akhangaran basin). In Sumsar valley we cross many pittoresqes villages. Going up sufficiently upstream of the river, the road ends, giving way to the trail. About 10 km above the last village, the valley is oriented east-west latitudinally. Here the river is called Kёk-Aly (or Kёk-aAa). Almost all the way up to its source, we cross a large pebble plain partially flooded. The Kёk-Ala River originates on the eastern slope of the ridge, where the peaks have an altitude of 3700 m. Side slopes are steep and rocky, dotted with boulders.

The Kёk-Ala pass(about 3500 m) opens up a vast panorama to the west. Where much of the Angren plateau is visible with all its snow that wind there, like the top of Babayob (3767), south-west superior stream of the Arashan River on the south side of the range of Chatkal, northwest mountains on the left bank of the river Terc (left tributary of Chatkal). From there, trails diverge, to go around the lake Kёk-Ala, forming a network of paths that meet again. The lake is also accessible through the valley south of Gava river and that of Kok-sarek.

Lake Kёk-Ala was formed following a collapse in the source of an unnamed tributary of the Kara-Archa-say River (east, Gava basin area). Lying in a northeasterly direction (1.5 km long with an average width of 500 m), it is placed into a deep depression surrounded by steep rocky cliffs, and the surface of the higher abrasion plate is located 400 meters above the water level. The whole is a very picturesque place. Dark blue, the lake is in perfect harmony with the surrounding field of flowers such as sizymi, lilac and red rocks, which all of them reflected in the water surface. The bright green spots of elongated junipers and a few other varieties of trees give a special touch. The lake is fed by several rivers, most starting from the top plate. The downstream continuation of the lake basin is in the form of steep and deep gullies on the left, which come to be confused with the same terrain abraded.

The depth of Lake Kёk-Ala is 130 m. At the base of the natural dam, a small creek bottom (level of about 2600 m), flows, and will throw into the river Kara-Arsha-say (eg Gava). A path continues along the left bank of the river, getting to the lake and also rise to reach the source of Gava.


Col de Chapchama
Terc
Plateau d'Angren
Ravat-say
Col de Keng-Saz
Col de Chal-Kodu
Chal-Kodu-say
Chapchama-say
Col de Bosh-Rabat
Terc
Pic Kyzyl-Tash 3866m
Col de Kyzyltor
Sargardon
Chatkal
Ak-Tash-say
Ychtamberdy-say
Col d'Ychtamberdy
Col de Kara-Kychart
Pic Babayob 3767
Kek-Ala-say
Sumsar
Col de Kyych Art
Kacah-say
Lac de Kek-Ala
Col de Kek-Ala
Col de Kyzyl-Bel
Kara-Archa-say
Tura-say
Col Muz-Ter
Col 3583
Col Arashan
Col Daban ou Turasay
Plateau d'Angren
Akbulak
Lacs d'Arashan
Pic Akchat
Col Akchat
Col Kachmancay
Col Soyouz-50
Chatkal
Tashkecken
Arashan
Kuramin
Kirghizstan
Col sans nom
Col Akbulak
Pic Terekly
Col Kelimchek
Col TEIC
Col Toypan
Terekly-say
Kelimchek
Tash-say
Ak-Tash-say
Ahangaran
Gava-say
Kek-Sarek
Col Turkestan
Besh-Tash
Col Terekly-say
Pic Karakysh 3864m
Col de Cyyk-Bulak
Sumsar
Ouzbékistan
Kuramin
Gava
Gava
Ahangaran
Ertash
Beshkul
Col Kamchyk
Kokcaray

Orographic scheme of Angren Plateau

The Gava river begins at the southeast edge of the Angren plateau, place that is also a source of several rivers. The line of the watershed (west) extends along the rounded ridges of relatively low altitude, hardly exceeding 3400 m. However, downstream the Gava-say cuts the surface of the plate forming there deep gorges up to 500 meters high or more. The remaining surface of the original plate is then only narrow ridges separating rock circuses. All that part of the river almost to its mouth in the plain in Gava is more or less the same look.

At the source of Gava, the trail runs along the watershed of the Kara-Archa river passes through the pass of Ishtamberdy (3163 m) and then passes on the side of the river of the same name, Ishtamberdy. The ridge continues northwest achieves to the west the sources of Akhangaran River and by north those of the Chal-Koduu river. By continuing along the ridges to the east at about 6 km, also reaching the crest of Chatkal, we arrive at the mountain pass of Keng-Saz at 3172 m altitude. This area of Keng-Saz pass is an orographic and geological connection between the crest of Chatkal and that of a side subchain, the Kuramin, which develops at length to the south on the territory of Uzbekistan. The local name of this part of the mountain is the Kyzyltor. From the pass the trail, to the north of Keng-saz, leads to the sources of Bravash-say River (south of the Terc River Basin), and the south trail leads upstream of the Ak-Tash-say River (Akhangaran Basin). The Akhangaran rises its source in Boshravat pass or Dzhirdan, at an altitude of about 3500 m, a little further east are located the Keng-Saz Pass and the transition to the Terc River Valley. At the origins of the gorges of Akhangaran, the plate is cut with deep canyons, sometimes many hundreds of meters. The gorges have a trapezoidal section and a relatively flat bottom. The river flowing quietly almost on the top plate, soon rushed in rocky canyons on gushing streams, successive waterfalls terraces and cornices, bouncing between the rocks.

The Akhangaran Gorge itself has a depth of approximately 400 m below the plateau, and 100 m wide, with elbows in some places. The valley really forms a canyon. And we can get there only by using specially designed routes. The route of these paths is so difficult that people have given their specific name (Davanami).

The path, relatively far from the right bank of the Akhangaran is almost parallel to the gorges, and crosses a number of tributaries. The way to Boshravat pass and to the valley of the source of the Arashan is long (approx. 18 km) and very tiring. It has indeed a lot of ups and downs: here one has to traverse a series of deep valleys dependent on Akhangaran at an altitude of about 3000 m. It should be noted that on the portion of the crest of the range, between Chatkal passes Boshravat and Arashan, very few tourist groups went there, leaving no visible material trace.

All along the way in the Arashan Valley, there are no trees, not even shrubs of creeping juniper. The path at the bottom of the gorges of Akhangaran is locally called Kalmakkûl and leads to the gorge of the Arashan, about 10 km upstream from its mouth.

The course of the Arashan is short enough on the plate and quickly locked down through waterfalls joining the Akhangaran river. But where the trail crosses the river downstream, it is difficult to believe that you are in the mountains, as the relief is regularly. Even if the height is 2400 meters, here and there,only some relatively low elevations on northwest are pointing, alsoit is like a plain, for the observer to the south part of the plate. However, when we approach the crest of Chatkal, gradually raising, the glacial landscape becomes more rocky and on the alpine slopes extend multitudes of flowers, almost up to the crest of the basin the Akhangaran.

At the borders of the Arashan valley, near the crest of Chatkal, the bottom of the valley almost reached 500 m wide. All along the main stem of the valley, moraine material has slipped. At this height a large dam remains of an old moraine has been formed, creating a lake 700 m long with an average width of about 170 meters. Its maximum depth is about 15 m, it occupies the bed of an ancient glacier out of this part of the Arashan valley relatively sunken, towards the northwest. The lake has finally filled this valley. The emptying of the lake is in the body of the dam on widths up to 6 m and a depth of 1 m. The lake is known by hydrogeologists as its name Lake Arashan.

Around the lake there is also three other lakes to the west at short distance.

The sources of Arashan, which gave the name to the Valley as well as lakes are frequently visited for its thermal interest. Becauxe between the cracks in the granite and moraine, on the left bank of the river, 400 meters under the lake, at an altitude of 2820 m, there is a source of sulfide hot water, with its characteristic smell of hydrogen sulfide. The source has always been regarded by local residents as "holy" and attracts many pilgrims, for whom even a small pool suits for bathing. For the source and bathing in summer, access is monitored by an old man who lives nearby.

Above the lake shore, there are visible traces of ancient glaciers: the form ofs abrasion of lateral moraines rock, a medial moraine upstream merger of the two moraines. The distance between the basin area of the Arashan and the lake is about 5 km away. At the top the river has a fork into two valleys leading both to the passes on the ridge. The left valley leads to Arashan pass. The route follows the valley floor with access sandy slopes and scree, then a big scree and with snow and a final steep snow slope. The crest sometimes has a snow cornice, which we must pierce his weak point. This is the route to the Arashan pass (3470 m, 1b). The descent of the Arashan pass leads to the Terc River Valley.

On the right side of the circus of the sources of Arashan is the Turasay pass (3155 m). It takes over an hour to reach it from the lakes Arashan, sometimes when there is a heavy snow. The wide saddle of Turasay pass (3155 m, I, b) can be covered with a deep, light snow early in the season. From the pass it opens a wide panorama towards the North-West: visible peaks are the Great Chimgan, the flat Mount Polathan, all in limestone and the southern slope of the mountain of Sargardon. Along the mountain, the slopes of the Chatkal range are heavily eroded and give a lot of loose material. On the northwest slope of the ridge is the sources of Akbulak River, a left tributary of the Chatkal.

Trekking routes of Arashan and Turasay passes, over the crest of the range of Chatkal, offers the opportunity to access the mountainous parts of the northwest, additional branches of the chains of Sargardon and Kumbel. This part of the Chatkal ridge justly named the crest of Arashan and further to the southwest, where the ridge separates the basins of the Ahangaran and Akbulak, mountains are called Akcham.

Following the watershed of the Ahangaran, the mountainside trail (2700m) in south-west led the Arashan River in the central part of the Tash-say river and a further, one reaches the river valley Kelimchek. Throughout, the successive gorges feature a wilderness trail: cascades and waterfalls outgoing from narrow slit. We reached the headwaters of the river Kelimchek to reach another path (leading to Kyzyl-cha River valley to the south). The rise along the path leading to Kelimchek takes 5-6 km, and it reaches a huge circus. The foothills are divided into three parts, they are located on the heights of the Trogu Communication Central (year 1977). The various passes have altitudes of about 3500 m and reach the upper basin of the river Tash-kesken opposite side of the ridge. Top of the left source of Kelimchek river thus lies three passes, the Akbulak, a nameless pass and TEIC pass (Tashkent Electro-Technical Institute of Communication).

Over the lakes on Kelimchek River is on the crest of Chatkal, a culminating peak at 3872 m. So it is in this area taht lies the three passes, in the south TEIC pass (3800 m), and then the unnamed pass (3750 m), and a little farther northward Akbulak pass (3570 m). They are of the same difficulty 1B. Their access takes long boulders, gravel pits or scree slopes. When we approached the edge of the cliffs, passages include snowfields. Rocky ridges are narrow, formed in solid rock in a succession of gendarmes, stone towers and turrets.

Since the descent of the Akbulak pass (the North), we approache on the north slope below, a moraine lake that gives source to Akbulak river. For a safer descent, it is worth taking the right approach and a slope covered with snow which gives lower directly on the lakes. Here comes the trail, which passes over a side ridge where we reach the descent of one or the other two valleys Akbulak the right, left the Tura-say. The other two passes provide access to the upper Tashkesken River (watershed of Akbulak).

If you continue down the Ahangaran parallel to the valley, the trail crosses the valleys of Kelimchek, the valley of the River Djakarcha, where there is a large number of blocks. There is also the Lauchenkiay River (Lochakkiay on the map): its mouth is remarkably wild, constituted by some rocks of red porphyry in outcrops along the vertical cracks. In addition, there are still five short valleys towards the village of Beshkul after the passage of a small crest to switch in the valley of the Ahangaran river itself. Here, the trail is very easy: from a plateau 600 meters above the river, we soon join the road of Kamchik pass (crest of Kuramin). There is a building "Pioner Lagerey" (pioneer camp), a health Etablissement on the banks of the River Ahangaran. Soon the trail joins the road. From there you can go by bus in the cities of the Ferghana Valley or Angren, in Uzbekistan.

A.7.12. Bibliography on Western Tien-Shan

As we have already mentioned, the books on Western Tien-Shan are few, not to mention that many of them do not cover the whole area, but usually only one range. Thus, in the book of Lj. Promptova "In the mountains of Tien-Shan" (1948 В горах Тянь-Шаня), the author describes a journey through the valleys of the Talas Ala-Too through the Karabura pass and the exploration of Lake Sary-Chelek by the passage of Chatkal from the village of Burchmulla. Some information may be gleaned from a geographic description of the "Soviet Union" in 22 volumes. In book "Kazakhstan" (1970) it describes, for example, the basins of rivers Arys and Keles (pp. 315-322), in book "Kyrgyzstan" the description covers the Talas Valley (pp. 152-159) and the foothills of Chatkal (p. 235-237), in book "Uzbekistan", it deals with Bostandyka region (pp. 122-127) and the Ahangaran Valley (pp. 142-147).

For more information on specific areas of the western mountains of Tien-Shan, we find information (in Russian) in the following scientific reports and articles:
- Nature and economic situation of the Bostandyka mountain region. Almaty, 1956. (Природа и хозяйственные условия горной части Бостандыка. Алма-Ата, 1956)
- D. N. Kachkarov. Main results of the expedition of the Museum of Central Asia in the Lake Sary-Chelek. Tashkent, 1927. (Кашкаров Д. Н. Результаты экспедиции Главного Средне-Азиатского музея в район озера Сары-Чилек. Ташкент, 1927)
- D.N. Kachkarov and A. Korovin. Visit the Talas Ala-Too, Publication if the Principal College of Asian Museum in the summer of 1923. (Кашкаров Д. и Коровин А. Экскурсия в Таласский Алатау, снаряженная Главным Средне-Азиатским музеем летом 1923 г.)
- N.L Korjhenevskiy. Report on glaciers and rivers of Pskem, Talas and Susamyr-Too. Tashkent, 1929. (Корженевский Н. Л. Отчет о поездке на ледники рек Пскема, Таласа и Сусамыра. Ташкент, 1929)
- N. A. Severtsov. Travel in the Turkestan region, 1947 (Северцов Н. А. Путешествия по Туркестанскому краю. М., 1947.)
- Small articles and notes on the Tien-Shan Western dispersed in "new Turkestan and the Russian Geographical Society" (Известиях Туркестанского отдела Русского географического общества), in the "new" academies of Sciences of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and the State University of Central Asia in Tashkent and other periodical publications ("Известиях" Академий наук Казахстана, Киргизии, Узбекистана, в Трудах Среднеазиатского). Reference books on nature reserves contain detailed information on the nature, flora and fauna, located in Western Tien-Shan.

A.7.13. The Ferghana range (appart from the book of V.N.Popov)

Main Features

Ferghana massif is a vast mountain chain of the Tien-Shan extending Northwest-Southeast, on a line running roughly from Toktogul reservoir to the Torugart pass. Its original direction remains unique in the Tien-Shan, whose extensions are generally East-West. The south-eastern area of the Ferghana range has the highest peaks. It is located at the junction of the Tien Shan and Alay. The area is an orographic node connecting the end of the Alay, the small range of Torugart-Too and Ferghana. This part of the Ferghana is also very different from other parts of the ridge firstly by its altitude up to 4893 m (Peak Uch-Zeid.) and also by the orographic and geological conformation. The peak Uch-Zeid, 4905m (or 4893m) is the highest point in the chain of Ferghana (Tien Shan). The peak is located in the western part of Ochi-Koman Glacier (No. 70). The average height of the peaks in the south-eastern region of 4500-4700 m.

Though the northern Ferghana, much closer to civilization, was well explored and even had a little guidebook in former times of Soviet Union. But the Alpine history of the southern part of the Ferghana range does not really exist, in any case piecemeal. Judge for yourself: in search of pictures of the area on the Internet, I came across a reference to a comment saying the Russian geologist Dmitri Ivanovich Mushketov had explored this region in summer 1910. Just then I found the mention a publication of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society in a list on the first explorations of the Pamir and nearby areas. "Mushketov, D. Glaciers in Eastern Region of Ferghana Ills [in Russian] Izvestyia Imp Russian Geogr. Soc., Vol. 48, 1912, No. 1-5, pp. 281-293." which seemed to confirm the assertions of the comment. Also the famous Mushketov could only be the son of the pioneer explorer Ivan Mushketov which gave its name to the famous glacier in northern Engylchek. We can only see a "vacuum" of 90 years in the knowledge of this remote area, until the 2000s.

The area was much later visited by tourists from the 2000s for its white water activities such as rafting on Oi-Tal, the Karakuldja and Arpa. But There is a real lack of climbing activity in the Soviet period, which is probably due to the proximity to the Chinese border, the rainy climate, and also the far removal of alpine areas from the cities, villages and roads.

Hydrography of the south-eastern part

The main rivers of the southeastern part of the Ferghana massif are from north to south, Arpa and its tributary the Karakol (eastern slope), the Yassi, the Kara-Kuldja, the Kunlun and Terek (all western slope). Karakol and Arpa located on the eastern approach to the range from the region of Naryn and the road of Torugart Pass. Other valleys can be reached from the Ferghana Valley and Osh-Uzgen cities. The ridge forms a watershed line between the Ferghana basin in the south and the basin of Upper Naryn in the North East, two basins that eventually form the Syr Darya in Uzbekistan.

Geology and orography of the south-eastern part

The Southeast region is composed of metamorphic rocks, shale and sandstone. In the valley of the Kara-Kuldja and Terek, black shales dominate. Generally, they are strongly destroyed by erosion (this stone crumbles sometimes when stepped on). We find these particular detrital rocks also on the foothills of the Pamir Kyrgyz in the Trans-Alay. Rock routes in the area are then so poor. The sharp erosion of rocks also form an interesting effect called "black rivers", slates crushed by glaciers form an opaque and dark color of the water. The color deepens same in afternoon. So it is also very difficult to cross these rivers because we can not see the bottom, and the water becomes even undrinkable. The valleys are generally composed of conglomerate. Due to the fact that the region has experienced successive geological outbreaks in height (Tien-Shan is very active), new river channels have emerged in some deep canyons in the valley, while the old form during elevated terraces. In narrow valleys, gorges have steep walls conglomerate, falling directly into the river, and in which it is practically difficult or impossible to move. In the middle reaches of the valleys one can see very fine green and alluvial grasslands. Downstream one can also see few spruce groves of the Tien Shan, which may indicate a higher rainfall level.

The maximum height of valley bottoms is around 3500 m.

Climate

The climate of this area of the Ferghana has its specificities because it is the meeting of several influences. In the summer, about half of the days (if not more) is rainy, and 30% of the days in the form of prolonged rainfall period. In summer, rain can fall up to 4300m, but there may be occasional snowfall at 3000m. The amplitude of summer temperature is -5°C to + 25°C. The temperature is determined by the orientation of the edges and the general movement of air masses. Here moist air comes from the Ferghana Valley, from west to east, the mountains of the Ferghana chain forms a particular location for intense rainfall on its western slopes. In addition, the main peak is a barrier for cold air masses in the winter. All this contributes to the growth of lush vegetation west of the main ridge: herbs can easily hide a seated man. And if a path is not used regularly then it quickly loses invasive vegetation in a few years.

The eastern slopes also receive their share of precipitation that remains under snow like high altitude and its many glaciers are fed.

Further downstream of the eastern slopes, the basin of the Arpa River is not much watered. Its climate is dry, and strongly continental. This is a typical alpine desert, high altitude steppes. Where winter temperatures are extreme and can sometimes reach -50°C.

Opportunity of climbs in the south-eastern part

This is essentially the glaciated areas that create opportunities for ascension. We must not rely on the quality of the rock. The roads are sometimes short but technical in snow/ice up the score 4 (or D). These are the access passes with quotations 3A (AD) and apical surfaces of glaciers overlooking the northeast slopes. The side of the massive peaks also offer interesting small glacial faces. The approach of passes are usually unilateral, accessible by the glacier on the slopes and closed to the south by steep slopes detrital rocks and conglomerate.

The ridge seem primarily to be a playground for alpine hiking and high-altitude trekking with some glacial and technical passages (listing 1A, 2A-2B). Access to the valleys can take several days and require the organization of a group with experience in autonomy with heavy loads.

This is confirmed by the reports and particularly that of Dmitryi Shapovalov, Katya Ananyeva and Dmitry Martynenko team in 2007, coming from the Karakol river valley on the eastern slopes of the Ferghana and who made the ascent of the north peak of Xaocan up to 4818 m. Then they moved to the valley of the highest peak Uch-Zeid and realized the ascent of the icy north face in seven pitch on slopes up to 70° and a final on a partially cracked front edge to reach the summit (4893 or 4905). Their assault camp is located at 4350 m front of the mountain. They ended their trip with a trek through the western slopes in the valleys of the Oïtal, the Kulun and Karakuldja. The team of Sergey Gladilin also executed a "trekking/mountaineering" in the Terek valley completely up around it and the eastern slopes, glaciers and peaks Xao-can, Pic Kashkasu, the high valley of Karakol (eastern slopes) and by the Karakol pass join the Kara-Kuldja Valley and down it in full. In 2008 the team of Bogdan Savchinsky (see below) by Yassi Valley (north zone) performs a nearly complete altitude crossing of the eastern slopes of Ferghana, climbing the Chingiz Aitmatov Peak (4650 m) and Peak Chong-Karakoman (4640 m), to join the Karakol glacier (No. 90) the high valley of Kunlun, the 4773 peak (head of the Kunlun Valley) and the lake on the way down, all in 15/16 days. In 2012 the team of Alexander Lissak also carries a "trekking/mountaineering" starting around the massif of Uch-Zeid, then bypass the Ferghana range by Ochi-Koman pass to reach the high valley of Kara-Kuldja then halfway descent branching off into the valley of the Kunlun and its beautiful lake, all on 18/19 days.

Access to the south-eastern part

Yassi River Valley - this valley was explored by a Ukrainian team in 2008, led by Bogdan Savchinsky. Details on the characteristics of the valley can be found in its report on Russian-speaking sites. The exploration team was unable to locate the Shilbeli Pass allows access to eastern slope of Ferghana and is consistently represented on all maps up to 1: 500 000. The access by car is possible up at the last village in the valley. It takes 40 km by foot to reach the upper valley.

Karakuldja River Valley - car access is possible up to the village of Uyallma and a little beyond. Upstream, there is a path along the left bank to the top. From the end of the road track access there is still a substantial length of over 60 kilometers, but there are good trails to climb to overcome major obstacles. In the very upper parts of the valley one can ford the rivers by foot. Downstream local populations shepherds maintain some bridges. Crossing the Karakuldja may require ziplines in summer.

Kunlun River Valley - again access is possible to the entrance of the last village Konduk (Tar and the Oita and the Kunlun Valleys). Above, a good path leads to the western end of Lake Konduk. Bypass the lake is possible by a path on the left bank, at an altitude of 400 to 500 m above the water level. In the upstream Lake Valley, there are only fragments of trails.

Terek River Valley - access with an all-terrain vehicle is possible up to the village of Terek. But the continuous road track for 7 km before along the left bank is a little bit hazardous. Not all drivers of heavy trucks agree to take you there since there is a doubt on the strenght of the bridges near the village. Over the end of the road there is a good track on the left bank up to the confluence of Tyusdzhaylau river. Above Tyusdzhaylau there are hunting trails, but it is not always unambiguous. Crossing the river is rather difficult until the input of Ashuayryk river. Bridges are seated by local sheperds along the Terek road, just below the confluence of the Gupchikoy river, and just above the confluence with the tributary river Balgandy. Local residents crossing the river on horseback, in many places, especially on the Tyuzdzhaylau mouth. There are also several snow bridge, apparently, quite regular. The two most important are five hundred meters below the mouth of the river. Kashka-Suu, and a hundred meters above confluence another same one.

The drive from Osh to these valleys of the western slopes is generally short (4h-6h) beyond it takes several days trekking to the rise of the valleys.

Arpa and Karakol Valleys - access to the southern part of the main ridge of the Ferghana by its eastern slopes is facilitated by the broad basin of the Arpa River reachable from the road Naryn - Torugart Pass (Chinese border). It has many dirt tracks crossing outback the Karakol valley. The dry climate and higher altitude facilitates access even if it is a wilder side. Since the end of the road runs, the main peak is reached in 1 day. This approach was carried out in the past by several teams: Bratkov and Dmitryi Shapovalov (2007, combined with the exploration of Djaman-Too range) and Mark Wedding (UK, 2010).

Hikes on the northwest area of the Ferghana Mountains (from the chapter "Alay" of the book of G.M. Vernadsky, Walking around Ferghana Valley, Collection "Great Ways", Moscow, "Sports and physical Culture " 1972)

Where the remote Chatkal ridge connects with that of Talas to form the Atoynok Tien-Shan's subchain, between the sources of rivers Karasu and Karakuldja, begins on the south-east direction the Ferghana chain. Here lies the northwest area around the well-known village of Arslanbob and this highest peak and remarkably isolated, the Baubash-Ata (4490 m). In this region, the mountain range forms narrow and deep gorges whose waters flow into the Naryn River. In the northwest edge of the mountain, the main highway Bishkek - Osh borrows the sinuous gorge of the future Syr Darya. It was there that was built in the ninth five-year plan in a constricted canyon, the largest existing hydroelectric barrage near Toktogul Kyrgyzstan city (large depression between Suusamyr-Too in the north and the Ferghana range in the south). This high dam blocking the course of the Naryn forming a large water tank.

As we have said before the Ferghana mountains forms a strong barrier to the rise of warm, moist air from the Ferghana depression. Cooled in the upper atmosphere, the moist air masses cause heavy rainfall averages from elevations 1400 m. There the humid and fertile valley bottoms create conditions for near lush plant world. The generosity of nature is incredible here. On the foothills at an altitude of 1000-1200 m, the vegetation is firstly semi-desertic one. The landscape is dotted with precious fruit bushes like pistachios. Then at an altitude of 1200-1800 m extends the belt of deciduous forests: walnut, maple, apple, plum, pear, hawthorn, barberry, currant, wild rose. Open grasslands become very picturesque where grow many wild cereals, purple flowers, scabious, yarrow leaf, Eremurus, sage and all the flowering plants that bees love. ***Suffice to say that honey is particularly tasty***.

Above the limits of this zone begins coniferous forests and subalpine and alpine pastures. Spruce forests of the Tien Shan, conifers standing straight in the sky give an unforgettable impression. These slender trunks, like those of the cypress, can reach 40-50 m in height and clearly stand out among the rocks and snow-capped peaks. The banks of the rushing torrents home of birches. This zone extends at an altitude of 2500-2700 m Then upstairs comes alpine meadows where juniper grows among rocks in the eternal snow border.

The walnut forests - the Kyrgyz natural resources are protected by conservation laws. At the time of the Soviet Union, these resources were reported state reserves under the responsibility of logging companies which protected the flora and fauna living in the forests. Often there were installed forest cottages where the guards and operators lived. Currently the walnut forests in the mountains of southern Kyrgyzstan occupy an area of 30,000 hectares. In forested areas around the villages of Dashman, Gava and Arslanbob, these forests are particularly dense. The three contiguous forest areas are almost at an average altitude of 1800 meters and is spread across several valleys east to west. The forests are dense and paths that traverse the slopes of mountains and hills form a real green tunnel, where the sun barely penetrates through the foliage. The air is filled with the sweet aroma of nuts. There to drop the magic of the place, it is necessary to silence, broken here and there by the sound of rivers, waterfalls and babbling streams. On both sides of the track between the trunks of trees, dense grass can be up to 2 m. On open lawns there are gooseberries, barberries, rose hips, and blackberry bushes.

Hikes around Arslanbob

Arslanbob is the name of a famous gardener who planted, according to legend, the surrounding forests. And the village was named after him. It is located at an altitude of 1400 m and from ancient times the residents are attracted to this North Eastern part of the Ferghana Valley by its mild climate and natural beauty. In the old days we went there on trolleys, carts, or horse and donkeys, or even walking. Now the road from the junction of Bazar-Korgon leads to Arslanbob by daily bus from Osh and Jalal-Abad. Arslanbob gradually became a resort area at time of the Soviet Union. On the banks of rivers and streams, under the trees, you could find many tourist and sports infrastructure: recreation camps, pioneer camps, youth, works councils and various institutions, Uzbek and Kyrgyz mainly. This infrastructure has fallen into disuse and is now replaced by a number of guest rooms, facing the local and international tourism (CBT Community Based Tourism).

The Arslanbob inhabited area is broad and covers nearly 8-10 km, located at an altitude of 1200-1800 meters above the level of the sea. At the top you can see the alpine and subalpine meadows within sight in all their diversity and richness of colors rendered by the multitudes of wildflowers. Lovers of aquatic landscapes and fishing can make a trip to the lakes and numerous rivers in the region (Kulan-Kol, Aina-Kol, North Baubash-Ata). The village is crowned by the jagged peaks of Mount Baubash-Ata (4490 m), which begins at an altitude of about 3500 m. As long as we take a little upper height on everything, opens beautiful landscapes of mountains, forests and scattered houses and yurts. The Baubash-Ata peak is low altitude to a country with a lot of 5000m and 6000m but its isolated position makes it often subject to high winds. By its steep rocky nature, we must pay special attention to the frequent rockfalls on its flanks. Winter in Arslanbob is relatively mild, with heavy snow cover, many sunny days, which creates excellent conditions for ski touring.

Arslanbob is 114 km Andijan, 90 km from Jalalabad and 175 km from Osh. This may be the starting point for hiking trips of several days in the chain of Ferghana, like a resting oasis on the road to the Chatkal range beyond the Naryn River and its famous lake Sarychelek. In the village of Arslanbob, lies precisely a place of local Islam, "mazar" of the legendary gardener. The local Muslim dignitaries had canonized him and had built a small mosque-mausoleum in his honor. From the beginning of the shrine, pilgrims from all over Central Asia gathered in crowds to honor the grave of the "holy man". The highlight of the pilgrimage is in August, when coming here representatives of the higher clergy, who hold religious ceremonies. Unfortunately for the legend, excavations were maid in time of the Soviet Union, showed that there was no burial in the mazar area.

Near the mazar, in the shadow of a mighty old tree can be found in "bazarchik" and tearoom. There the inhabitants, tourists and vacationers can exchange news over tea or a cup of koumiss (fermented mare's milk). In the tearooms delicious risottos can also be ordered and all kinds of other dishes for a low price with the typical atmosphere in addition: shashliks (lamb kebabs, lamb or beef), stuffed vegetables, fruits, rolls, pies of Samsa). For housing there is always a free guest house in the village where often both morning meal and dinner are included.

A 3 km north from Arslanbob, close to the foothills of the mountain, is the cascade of Chiltan. The watchtower overlook the water falling from a height of 30 to 35 meters in a narrow gorge, a real crevice in the broken rock which then escapes in a few jumps in the valley widened below. The air is saturated with moisture and breathes freshness. A good path leads to the lookout. Limestone formed here and there visible caves. This beautiful waterfall has long attracted people. Even the "Russian Orthodox" have once declared as a place of healing ailments of women.

On the south side of Baubash-Ata, there are several waterfalls, some of which fall steeply to a height of 70-80 m. Everywhere one can see the work of water, erosion of rocks. Another excursion led above the foot of Baubash Ata one of those large waterfalls we already guessed north into the surrounding landscape with its bright vertical band of white rocks. It is located 6-7 km from Arslanbob. The path to get there is altitude. When we approach the fall, it becomes much wider, but his vision is gradually reduced and finally disappeared behind a mountain spur. Closest we no longer hear the dull roar of the waterfall. Near the waterfall there are 2-3 small buildings of a hydroelectric plant, which once went from power lines that fed the installation of a radio communications relay, located on one of the peaks of the surrounding mountains. Also visible in the North East on a small high plateau. The hydroelectric plant had a capacity of 1.5 kilowatts, enough to supply electricity for domestic needs of the plant and radio relay personnel who lived there.

Since the hydropower plant one can still go up to the birth of the waterfall. There is no real path, but some scattered with loose rock underfoot. From the top of the waterfall, we begin to see the first snow at the foot of Baubash-Ata, but it will take two hours more to get closer. A number of rivers and streams originate on the southern slope of the mountain, like the river Arslanbob and Kara-Kulak-say. These sources are located around 2800 m where also remains permanent snowfields.

At about half a kilometer from the cascade of hydroelectric power plant, there is a little steep canyon dotted with small crevices where are nestled wild pigeons.

On the main road 4-5 km before Arslanbob is a small lake of spring water, overgrown with reeds near a cliff (probably Nujny Lake on the map near Gymkhana). In summer the water is soft and especially suitable for swimming. In this lake you can meet for a long time imported muskrats and who are well acclimated and breed successfully. Around the lake there are large plantations of apple trees.

Hikes on Karames river and Kara-Unkyur

Nota Bene-: Beware the Karames described in the itinerary seems to be the Sary-Tash river on the map, left tributary of the Kara-Unkyur becomes the Kurobes upstream!

The route can be divided into three sections comparable distances: 1) upstream of the Karames (Sary-Tash) to Manchak Pass (55 km); 2) Manchak Pass- Lake Karasu - Karasu River - Kenkol Pass (45 km); 3) Kenkol Pass-Lake Kenkol - Kara-Unkyur river - Kyzyl-Unkyur Forest Reserve - Dashman path to Arslanbob (45 km).

The tour starts first from Jalalabad by a public bus or taxi to the village Charvaq (same valley as Arslanbob), then upstream direction of the Kara-Unkyur river through the village of Kok-Alma. This is achieved on the road at the confluence of its tributary main left, the Karames (or Sary-Tash on the map). From here begins the first part of the walking route. The trail branches off the road leading to the forest reserve Kyzyl-Unkyur and immediately climbs the slope and far above the river rumbling below the steep banks. The Karames receives numerous tributaries from the crest of Ferghana, as Ottuzart ("Thirty-not") and the Zindon ("tower"). Sometimes the downstream part of Karames is appointed by the latter tributary. For 3 km trail passes through hardwood forests and clearings dotted here and there with apiaries and potato crops. Meet the farmers, it is possible to get them honey and potatoes. One can even find many places, young wild shoots thrown from the previous crop on the edges, hibernating under a thick layer of snow and sprout again in spring. Above the trail sometimes approaches the impetuous flow of the river, sometimes through forest arm, sometimes far away from the roar of the rushing waters.

On the left bank the steep slopes graves in the river, but the walnuts manage to cling to, and the slope is a pure green color, zebra from place to place by the white stripes waterfalls. Here, almost all wild nuts fall to the ground and join the natural fertilizer, unless some boars, many in the area, this will burrow nourishing humus.

The trail also passes through dense birch forests. Ravines and gorges are full of plums and other fruits. All streams and mountain ruisselles dump their boiling waters in Karames. Bridges are often precarious, many of them are demolished each mudslides spring and each year restored again. Slowly but gradually, altitude increases. About 15 kilometers upstream from the mouth of Karames we arrive at a large apiary. The area of walnut trees has declined in amount and leaves room for the birch, and willow. From there, take another path on the left (in the direction of the rise) the crest of a small hill leading to the Ottuzart Valley, also heavily forested. From there one can also go to Manchak pass. But the route of the Ottuzart valley to the Manchak pass, is known to be very steep, while the upstream route other Karames is much more gradual. Upstream the landscape rises, the green dress forest becomes sparser, and in some places in the steep cliffs there are traces of landslides. The river bottom is strewn with huge boulders. The path deviates to the left, then again back near the river, and sometimes alternates between the rocks and stones from the edge. At about 25 km from the mouth of Karames the trail up the thread of the river (keep attention on the map, is the Kyrobes place name that appears) and it moves along its shoreline covered by birches. Begins to appear above the junipers.

To take the direction Manchak pass, you must turn left on one of the small tributaries called Byrtal (perhaps Burukchu-tal on the map), located on the course about 30 kilometers from the mouth of Karames. To help you find the stream, you can ask the local farmers on the high summer pastures. Once Byrtal found, there will continue to ten kilometers before reaching the pass. Walking on a narrow path along the creek bed with calm waters, while the roars of the Karames still behind when we left him. Then gradually a strange silence settled between the majestic and imposing mountains. The climb gets steeper. Near the pass we will establish a camp for the night at an altitude of about 2500 m. There are still enough dead wood on the banks of the creek to make a good fire, thanks to mudslides on spring.

The next day, the first rays of the sun rising over the left greet you along the way. We climb towards the source of the stream to the pass that opens to the valley Ottuzart that are seemingly squirming below in the valley. Upstream the Ottuzart originates in areas of permanent snowfields. On the other side of the pass the trail winds along the descent of a steep slope down to the Ottuzart Valley, we must pass through and join a path in front looming already. It is barely noticeable among the tall grass and was lying on the upper course of the Ottuzart valley. And it is surprising to find there sometimes traces of hooves. The trail takes the wind from the mountains, now succeeded in the subalpine zone at an altitude 2700 m.

Upper on the trail, in a valley hollow, is a deep snow of a permanent snowfield and a small cave walls which was formed in the bottom of it. There from dripping water and a trickle bellow, starts Ottuzart river, while a few miles down it rolls several cubic meters per second.

The Manchak pass, not listed on the maps is on the borders of Ottuzart valley that switch to that of the Kapka-Tash and Karasu on the other side of Ferghana. The trail winds again on the steep slope here seems endless. On the sides there are yellow alpine poppies. At noon we reached the Manchak pass marked with a stone pyramid. We can stop there to rest and enjoy a magnificent view on each side. The height of the pass is 3300 m. The air is clean and transparent. Far below, on north slope's jailoos, we see groups of yurts and around, small moving dots of horses and sheep. It is on the Manchak pass that ends the first part of the route. The pass is an ideal location for overnight stays while the air is cooler and the frost is waiting for you in the morning. The path begins to meander along the downward slope, and you move like a shuttle on a loom. The descent of the pass is perhaps even steeper than the rise and access 3-4 km below the lake Kapka-Tash (Kyrgyz local appellation Kolbashi, which means "the source, the head of the lake"). Since from the lake flows the river which goes into the next big lake Karasu downstream.

The north side of Lake Kapka-Tash is saddly covered by scattered shrubs, stunted junipers or individual trunks left here as abandoned. In contrast, the south side is much more picturesque, streaked by blue-green bands of Tien-Shan spruce, and birch forests and hardwoods, hawthorn thickets on the borders of the lake. All this beauty proudly imposes on us, all crowned by the southern slopes of the Ferghana chain that is crossed (called here Kenkol ridge), covered with eternal snow.

The Kapka-Tash lake is of moraine origin, which in its upper part has a swampy alluvial cone of the river of the same name. The trail runs along the southern shore of the lake among the trees of the forest and joined the end of the lake river downstream. Just 3-4 km below, appears the second lake, called Karasu. The trail borrows the right bank and also manages to cross the south shore of Lake Karasu. The southern slopes are densely covered with wild roses and other shrubs. They are difficult to cross, as on the north shore. However, while the north shore is covered with grass and shrubs, one can find a path sufficient clear, sometimes through upper height.

The Karasu lake is a narrow ribbon of 7 km in length and a width of about 1 km from more flared downstream (like an elongated pear). The path that bypasses the spans is nearly about 10 km. Karasu Lake, located at an altitude 1938 m, literally blocked the course of the Karasu River and forms in what manner, its main source through an underground resurgence under stones. The north shore of Lake Karasu is quite steep partly covered with thorny bushes and thick grass. And it is impractical to venture there. The left bank is more picturesque, and a short trail leads to the rock rubble that clearly formed the natural dam after sliding slopes. The place is littered with large blocks of chaos stacked randomly on a mile, with here and there a sparse vegetation. We hear the sound of the river flowing under the blocks for half a mile downstream of the lake dam.

On the south shore of the lake, there is good lawns dotted with birch groves, which makes this place an excellent rest area. Fishermen will go in search of a good place, usually near the confluence of the mountain streams and waters of the lake. This is where the benches marinkas congregate in cooler waters brought by the tributaries.

The southern slopes of Lake Karasu are very picturesque. In the center of the lake stands the figure of one of the peaks of the Ferghana, the Alyampasy (3754 m) with cliffs seem almost approaching the lake. Along the shoreline stretching birch groves, spaced by lush green grass lawns. Noisy streams, leaping over rocks, carry their distant echoes through the mountains. River below the lake is also called Karasu. It is a left tributary of the river Naryn (Syr Darya), whose mouth is near the hydroelectric Lake Toktogul reservoir, 50 km downstream. At the mouth was created the city of Kara-Kul town of Toktogul dam builders who later became a small summer resort.

Below the lake, the trail descends along the river among rocky rubble. On the northern slopes of the Ferghana several waterfalls that can be admired, almost falls vertically between the cliffs, forests and vegetation. The banks of Karasu are overgrown with birch groves, mountain willow and brambles. The trail goes down considerably from the source of Karasu and then after softened to easily lead to a trail that goes to the Kenkol pass (3134 m). The distance between the lake Karasu and the Kenkol Pass is 22 km away. In the middle of the course ii turns at a right angle to a steep climb on the slopes of Ferghana along the Oyunkyur river whose banks are first invaded by shrubs and herbs. Shortly after we reach the open grasslands. Stands above the head of the Peak Kenkol (3547 or 3564 m) and the pass to the left. There are visible barracks for breeding. The best pastures are located under the ridge at an altitude of 2500-3000 m. It is a place where there is a lot of activities.

The trail winds its way to the Kenkol pass on the steep slope, but the climb is easier than that of the Manchak pass: the trail is wide and well trodden down by all herds. Nearby is therefore the right Kenkol peak. It can be reached by a rocky path to admire the magnificent panorama. Among the rocks of the peaks is a vast backdrop of alpine meadows and sparse vegetation that is offered to us. On a sunny day the mountain offers as a cool oasis above the mists of the Ferghana Valley. There are spread all floors of vegetation, towering hills by Tien-Shan spruces and lowest distant walnut forests. Fills the whole horizon by mountains, peaks with steep walls, beyond the Karasu River, the Tien-Shan are surrounded by white clouds.

At the Kenkol pass ends the second part of our itinerary and begin the descent of the pass through the juniper bushes scattered here and there. Down, the track crosses between the trunks of trees. The path descends quickly and easily for six kilometers along the river Kenkol. We joined in a birch forest above the shore of an ancient summer agricultural structure of a collective farm livestock. If the premises are still exploited it is an ideal place to stop and eat fresh dairy products before continuing the journey through the narrow valley of the river Kenkol. Soon the river flows into a lake also called Kenkol, whose banks are overgrown by maple, birch and various shrubs. Backpackers tourists often come directly from Arslanbob with a more direct way to come to fish and eat fish soup.

Downstream of the lake, the river now flows under the name Kara-Unkyur ("Black Cave"). The name, given from a distant time, comes from the many dark crevices that populate the sides of the valley. At the bottom of the valley, waters of the “black caves” river raging furiously. After the lake begins walnut forests and wild fruit trees. There the glance in the side valleys lights of all color shades of foliage, almost all year round. Torrents cascade there wildly at various levels and water vapor filled with green moss slippery rocks. Combined with the heat of summer it develops here a lush vegetation. The Kara-Unkyur undergone several jumps to the bottom of the steep valley. With all its tributaries and humidity of the region, the Kara-Unkyur becomes a fierce torrent that can reach during spring, by flooding and melting snow, a rate of about 140 cubic meters of water per second.

In the valley of Kara-Unkyur there are also apiaries and abundance of edible fruit trees such as plum. Other bushes are covered with colorful berries, black, red or orange. Some of its berries are edible and collected by farmers to make jam. In the markets of the surrounding villages there are these jams and compotes plums and apples.

The descent of the trail continues to the forestry reserve Kyzyl-Unkyur (Katar-Djangak on the map as well). Gradually, the valley widens to the descent. In the area of the reserve of the valley it becomes a large pool where the river flows quietly. We reach a good road up to the timber company. At the time of the KSSR (Soviet Socialist Republic of Kyrgyzstan) the area was filled with wood plugs. And the store of the cooperative one can by from summer pastures, fed butter, dairy products and meat,. It is still an important place of passage to the Ferghana's jailoos and small farms on the Ferghana heiresses of old kolkozes. In the forest village, there is a shop, restaurant and bakery. Residents can buy milk, cream, eggs, chicken and turkey. The old "manor" center of operations was built in red sandstone, and now carries all traces of the harsh of weathering mountain climate. Kyzyl-Unkyur translates into Kyrgyz by "Red Cave".

Return by the Dashman trail. Forest Reserve continues the way down the Kara-Unkyur. 3 km from the forest office we cross a bridge over the river to get away to the right along the tributary called the Kyzyl-Unkyur and after 2 km, turn left leaving the river behind. The trail climbs among the dense thickets plum, wild roses and barberry. To his right, through the undergrowth, altered sandstone rocks has produced unusual shapes. Up to Arslanbob, the final destination, there is a distance of 20 km.

The “chalet” Dashman is known to be the center of a vast forest of ancient walnut trees. Through the forest, the woods are very dense and leave little place to sunlight. The air is still filled with fragrant essence. Silence is sometimes broken by the murmur of a stream, the slamming of the nightingale at dusk, the shrill cry of a pheasant or escape of a wild boar rushing into the undergrowth by breaking branches and bushes on its path. The trail winds like a vegetable tunnel sometimes right and left meeting centennial walnut mossy trunks of whimsical shapes. The Dashman cottage area is especially dedicated to the exploitation and systematic collection of nuts, as well as sampling the essence of walnut as construction timber, mainly finishing joinery work. Dead trees are used for their firewood. Dashman performs at the end of the autumn a larger operation of nut harvesting.

We pass through the “forest village” for again plunge into the depths of the forest. We arrive late in the day to Arslanbob. After the long hike it's time to enjoy a good rest in the comfortable guest houses of Arslanbob. You can even spend 2-3 days relaxing without even find the time long. During this last part of the journey from the pass Kenkol to Arslanbob is also recommended to bivouac overnight at Lake Kenkol, lake also pretty for fishing Marinka.

The total course length is 135 km, the estimated duration is 9 days. We can assign grade II of difficulty (Russian hiking cotation). The time to visit lasts from May to September, and each month have their own interest. In May and June, there are still a lot of snow at altitude and the nights are cooler. In July, the valleys are full of fruits, and subalpine meadows flowers are everywhere. This is also the period when jailoo have the most activity. In August, it's still the season of fruit in the towns and villages of Ferghana, and in the mountains also for the wild edible fruits and berries. In September, in the mountains it is the end of wild fruits, but they are particularly ripe. In September, in the mountains it is the end of wild fruits, but they are particularly ripe. The mountain begins to take the brilliant colors of autumn with all the surrounding deciduous forests. Autumn cattle down into the valley along with the apiaries, to take his winter quarters. After all it is your choice, but in the opinion of connoisseurs of places, the best time for this hike is still August.

The dorsal crossing of the Ferghana Mountains

The hike that we will now describe is listed III in the Russian hiking cotation system. It is reserved for seasoned hikers and asks some basic of mountaineering. The length of the tour is 155-160 km, of which 110 to 115 km stands along the crest of Ferghana, at an altitude of over 3000 m. In general for the bivouac we do not stay on the ridge but rule the progression, based on various jailoos that will serve as step. Hikers must have all the equipment and food for the duration of the course along the crest of the ridge, knowing that it is possible to refuel some fresh products in jailoos (mainly meat and dairy products). These jailoos (summer pastures) are visible from the ridge between 500 to 1000 meters below. The shepherds will certainly welcome you and even perhaps with some pomp.

In most places crossed, there's no firewood but slightly below the peak is found everywhere shrubs such as juniper, with enough dry wood. It is even possible to find in some places, the creeping juniper directly on the ridge. Plan still enough gas for cooking, at the rate of a standard cartridge for 3 days. The nights are cold, but during the day it is possible to walk scantily clad on sunny days. Winds are sometimes stronger at altitude and significantly cool the atmosphere. Rain and snow can also be at the “rendez-vous”. Finally the sun is everywhere present in altitude, so we need to protect our eyes and skin.

The journey begins in Jalal-Abad taking the road towards the Kaldamo pass. Be careful the road to Kaldamo pass (and Kugart valley) is not explicitly mentioned on 100 000th and 200 000th Soviet maps, but it is on the map at 500 000th. It also remains an inaccuracy in its route via a different high northern valley (the Urumbash valley on maps 100 000th and 200 000thth). In any case the route described seems to confirm the existence of a 4x4 track going towards the Kaldamo pass through the upper part of Kugart valley and it only still remains the unique road through the Ferghana mountains to reach the intermountains Naryn depression between two range of medium altitude, the Moldo-Too in the north and Akshyyrak in the south. The route to Kaldamo crosses the villages of Oktyabrskoe at the exit of Jalal-Abad, of Dimitrovka and Kugart in the green valley of the same name. It runs through a scenic area of deciduous forests, scattered cottages, villages and apiaries. The hike begins at the pass of Kaldamo (about 3000m) for 7-8 days walking in the mountains.

The pass of Kaldamo is on the crest of the Ferghana range which also forms a watershed between the basins of the two main rivers, the Naryn ("Sun") main component of the Syr Darya in the north and the Kara-Darya ("Black River") to the south in the plain of Ferghana. Throughout the ridge, leaving many streams, rivers, coming of the summit snowfields. But all the tributaries of the river from Ferghana do not reach the Kara-Darya, because water is used primarily for field irrigation. From the outset it is immersed in a setting of high mountains, blue sky and white clouds gently hanging on the adjacent vertices. This trip to the “skyline” allows us to admire a rich panorama and the diversity of mountain climates in the alpine and subalpine area, the vegetation stunted shrubs and juniper trees, then lower the spruce forests of the Tien Shan and finally those of deciduous trees. On a clear day, we guess in the sweltering humidity of the distant plain, the urban oasis of Andijan in Uzbekistan and other major cities in the Ferghana Valley.

North of our course line, follow one to another, like endless barriers, the mountains of Tien Shan within the foreground, the Kokirim-Too (4351m) and the Moldo-Too (4100m-4185m) decided by the emerging gorges of Naryn, in the distance north the Suusamyr-Too (4048m), to the east the small range of Akshyyrak (4036m, not to be confused with the range of the same name south of the Terskey Ala-Too range). This is the whole heart of Kyrgyzstan, heart of mountains but also heart of mankind.

So how can we forget the memories of hikers from the past, and their nights in these unforgettable heights. Tired by an arduous march, they sat before the fire of a Kyrgyz camp awaiting hungrily meals. On jailoo could still be heard at dusk, voices of men and bleating of sheep, the neighing of horses around. But everything had become calmer in the glow of the fire, when we hear in the air the incredible sound of a Kyrgyz song and komuz. Mountains were shining of the bright lights of yurts camp and tents of the shepherds.

Now that the fire was out, his eyes became accustomed to the darkness and the night seemed the magical beauty of an intense black sky dotted with millions of bright stars. The mind could then wandered over his light paths, such as traveling during the day. The stars became visible stones, rocks and ridges and mountain peaks, other hidden monsters. Lying on his back for a long time no one could take his eyes off this heavenly witchcraft, and it thus became a companion of stars.

And the moon in all this, became the fairy of the night, with the soldier slender trunks of fir trees all in a row. She orchestrated the dance of fantastic shadows on the cliffs and peaks, rivers and sparkling silvered streams, the banks become fanciful darkness, and the mirror lake to contemplate her. The magical charm of the night was suddenly disturbed by the dull roar of a rock collapse and noisy echo of debris that followed the original sound wave.

In the morning they awoke to the sound of the first shots in the pasture. Looking carefully out of the tent, they could see if they were lucky tetra-lyres, ptarmigan, Siberian ibex graze peacefully and deer who ventured out of the woods. Kyrgyz whole bestiary that reminded us of those distant European Mountains. No need to consider the fantastic encounter with leopard too cautious and elusive animal, get away from men and its noise and unfortunately too few. The look that did not receive animal silhouettes of dawn, could wander into deep gorges and canyons below how they were removed of the night, like the valleys covered with a veil of mist before the rising sun. Now horses and sheep on jailoo also greeted the dawn of their sounds when the huge red disk of the sun is already rose above the peaks. But let us leave the memories, for they are also returning soon.

Let us return to our hike. There is no trail or track on the main ridge of Ferghana. So it will in some cases avoid too steep rocky ledges by loopholes on the sides of the ridge. Similarly crossing some rocky sections and steep peaks requires extreme care and the use of a rope. It is a sometimes steep mountain terrain and where the slightest mistake can not be tolerated. This crossing is outback of traditional accesses and passes used in jailoos. This is not a “convenient ride” rather an adventurous one. On the route we cross many paths through the ridge and several snow fields (they are mainly located on the north side, and they can sometimes be bypassed to the south). The peaks do not exceed 4000 m. Sometimes you come around the most difficult peaks which then become pure mountaineering objectives. The basic rule for guidance is to follow the ridge that generally follows a northwesterly direction.

Since Kaldamo pass, the trail is followed for 10-12 km, the headwaters of rivers Kaldamo (east side) and Kyzyl-suu East and West ("Red River"), first head north and then west. One then arrives at the Kyzyl-Suu Pass (3075 m), then we joined a long trail of 4,3 kilometers below the ridge and then down to the left to the Urum-Bashi river. We continue along the ridge to the northwest for 6-7 km to reach the Urum-Bashi pass (also 3075 m). There, the crest forme a right angle to the left towards southwest lightly for a dozen kilometers before returning to its main direction (north-west). This is where we will meet the first obstacle, up from rocky foothills of the 3741m peak that must be overcome for nearly 7 km to the right (northeast slopes) along the snowy slopes below the summit 3741 m and their cliffs. Crossing oscillates between 2800m to 3000m altitudes and has several mountainous north-east facing cirques. It ends with the last rock bastion that fades north to make way for a more regular ridge. After crossing a snowy circus last one goes back to join an easier trail.

The trail now follows a nearly full northbound 15 km to the Karames pass 3281 m (Kurobes on the map, river of the same name). On this section the trail is almost always above 3400m. On the way to the left you can see the peak of 3892m. The pass is quite crowded, and it is always possible to meet travelers and shepherds. Then the ridge, shortly after leaving the Karames pass turns left and leads to another pass, the Manchak Pass (3300 m) which we have already spoken in the previous route. The distance between the two passes is about 20 km away. In this section of the course, we often located above 3500m and even to 3625m. Near the Manchak pass, we encounter snowfields on the north side. The part of the ridge is called here Kenkol.

Now is the most beautiful part of the route between the Kenkol pass and the Manchak pass (about 30 km). Immediately after Manchak pass, crest makes a slight left toward the apex snowfields. The direction is that of aligning Kapka-Tash and Karasu lakes, all the way down to the north. The ridge runs through the top of the Alyampasy (3754 m) crowning a landscape of green forests and tinted rivers with emerald on the Karasu Valley. Then crest goes down to the Kumysh-Bel pass 3476 m. The meadows below the jailoos are dotted with yurts and tents of the shepherds.

It is on the pass Kenkol that our itinerary on the ridge ends. The distance between the steps depends on the obstacles of the crossed pass, as the course must take detours or not, but also technical and physical abilities of the team. Of all these terms will depend the choice of places for overnight stays. Similarly, one must consider the objectives mountain risks exposure such as landslides and mudslides that often occur at night during sudden changes in temperature between day and night. It should also take into account the exposure to wind that can break the tents at the camp. This hike is possible from June to September. If the route is in May or in October when its difficulty may be increased to IV. In all cases it is useful to learn with reliable weather forecasts. But if the weather and snow is in the game, especially in May and October then you better give up, because the commitment of hiking is important and requires good visual orientation.

If it is decided to extend the hike on the ridge to Kumyr-Bel Pass (3111 m, Kamyr-Bel on the map) then the rating of the difficulty increases to IV. If instead the hike ends at Kenkol pass then one could follow the descent route that was described in the previous hike.

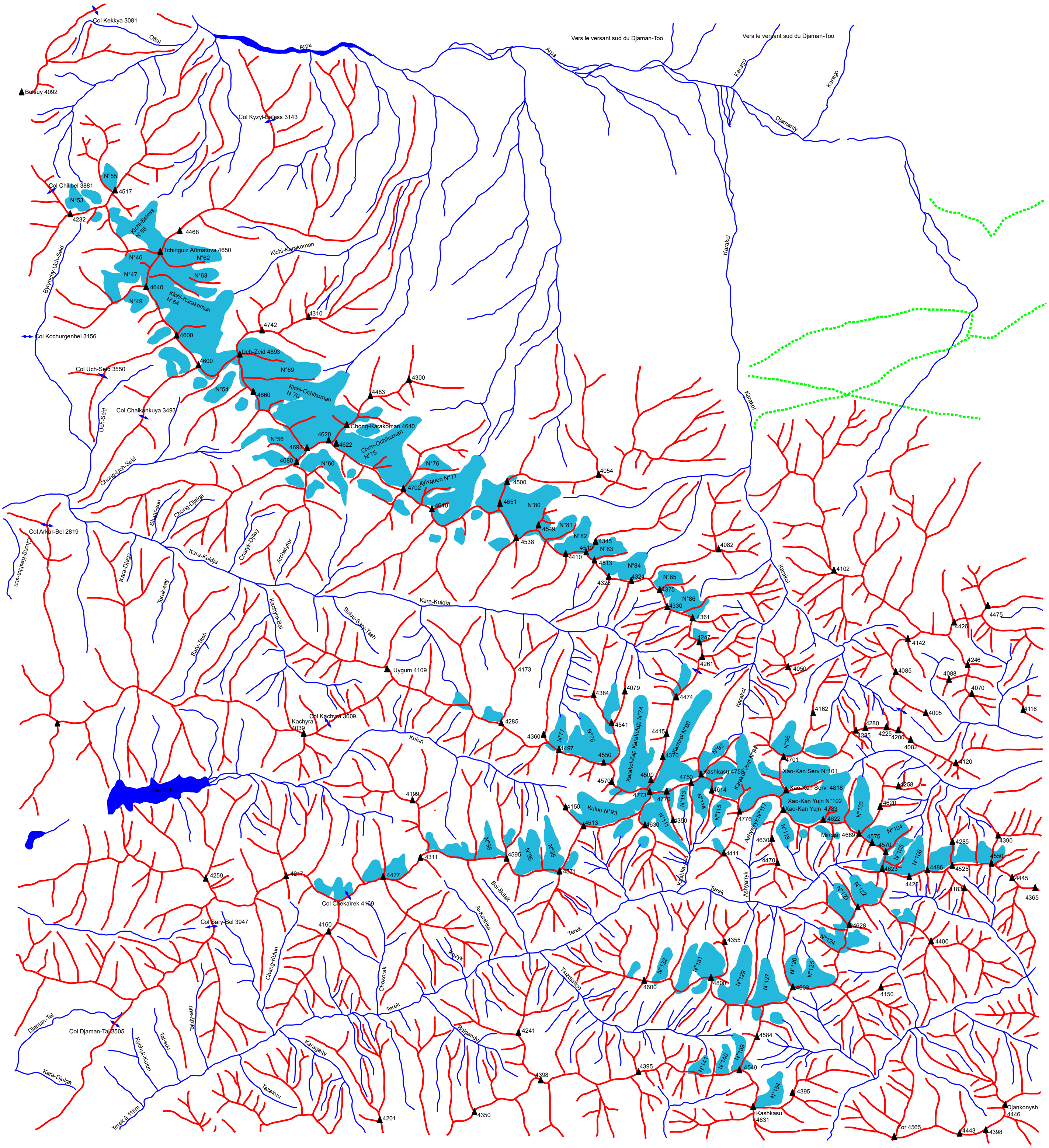
Other hikes around Arslanbob and the Peak Baubash-Ata

Combined with a visit to the Toktogul reservoir, the town of Kara-Kul near the hydroelectric plant can be the starting point for a hike between the basins of the Kaindysu green river upstream to its source, to join the pool side of the river Kenkol (Kara-Unkyur), an excursion surrounded by the peaks Baubash-Ata (4490 m) and Chon-Kerets (4126 m). Hikes abound around the Baubash-Ata. Note for instance, CBT Arslanbob offering the ascent of Baubash-Ata on 4 days (mountain climbing, rock, snow and ice). Also a hike of 3 or 4 days is possible to lakes Kulan-Kol and Aina-Kol through the On-Tamchi pass (3145m, 17 km from Arslanbob) and the rise of the West Kerets Valley (18 km distance between the On-Tamchi pass and lakes). On this route there are virtually no forest. You can still continue to Kerets pass back down in the eastern Kerets Valley, itself a tributary of the Kara-Unkyur and thus join it to the south. During the tour you can admire the Chon-Kerets peak 4126 m, and the north slope of the Peak Baubash-Ata. The distance is 20 km between Lake Kulan-Kol and Lake Kenkol. The return to Arslanbob is longer, it goes through the Lower Kara-Unkyur and Dashman. There are approximately 27 km of distance.

Also a variant of the walking route described before is possible through the Kumysh-Bel pass at 3476 m at the foot of the Alyampasi (3754 m).

For a tour of the various walnut forests, wooded valleys can be crossed from east to west between Arslanbob and Akterek (north of Gava), for a distance of 18-20 km. It must still be noted that it is difficult to find the right direction there, because there are too many ways, and the map does not mention any!

Cartography***. South-East area : Maps*** 1/50000th k43-126-1; 1/100000th k43-113, k43-125 et k43-126 ; 1/200000th k43-27 et k43-33 - ***Area North-West, Arslanbob*** : 1/100000th k43-86, k43-87 , k43-98, k43-99, k43-100 for Kugart Valley and the Kaldamo pass ; 1/200000th k43-19, k43-20, k43-25 et k43-206.


Col Kekkya 3081
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Arpa
Vers le versant sud du Djaman-Too
Vers le versant sud du Djaman-Too
Arpa
Karago
Karago
Djamanty
Boisuy 4092
Col Kyzyl-Beless 3143
N°55
4517
Col Chilibel 3881
N°53
4232
Kichi-Beless N°58
4468
Tchinguiz Aitmatova 4650
N°46
N°62
Kichi-Karakoman
Byyuchu-Uch-Seid
N°47
N°63
4640
Kichi-Karakoman N°64
N°49
Karakol
4310
4742
Col Kochurgenbel 3156
4600
Uch-Zeid 4893
4600
N°69
Col Uch-Seid 3550
N°54
4660
Kichi-Ochikoman N°70
4300
4483
Col Chalkankuya 3493
Uch-Seid
Chong-Karakoman 4640
4620
4622
Chon-Ochikoman N°75
N°56
4692
4680
N°60
N°76
Karakol
Chong-Uch-Seid
Ityivguen N°77
4702
4500
4054
4651
N°80
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Sharp-suu
Chong-Djilga
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N°82
4345
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4510
N°83
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4082
Col Arkar-Bel 2819
Chong-Kashka-suu
Kara-Djilga
Chalyk-Djilay
Archalytor
Kara-Kuldja
4513
N°84
4324
4325
Karakol
4102
N°85
4375
Tersk-say
N°86
4330
Kara-Kuldja
Kachyra-Bel
Suluu-Sary-Tash
4361
4475
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4247
4142
Sary-Tash
4261
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4085
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Uygum 4109
4173
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Karakol
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Karakol-Zap. Karakudja N°74
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Col Kachyra 3609
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Karakol N°90
4082
Kulun
4497
4550
N°92
4370
N°96
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Karakol N°94
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4570
4500
Kashkasu 4758
Xao-Kan Serv N°101
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Karakol
4773
4771
4614
Xao-Kan Serv 4818
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4199
N°113
N°114
Xao-Kan Yujn N°102
Xao-Kan Yujn 4783
N°103
4620
4150
Kulun N°93
4776
4622
N°115
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Mindjar 4669
N°104
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N°106
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Ashyalyk
4470
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4525
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Kashkasu
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Bor-Bulak
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183
4365
Col Chekairek 4169
Terek
N°123
Ak-Kashka
4628
Col Sary-Bel 3947
4160
Terek
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4355
4400
Bozyk
Chang-Kulun
Chokorak
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N°131
N°129
N°126
N°125
N°127
4150
Tluzgildoo
4600
4800
4603
Taldy-suu
Terek
Djaman-Tal
Col Djaman-Tal 3505
Batpandyk
4241
4584
Taksay
Kyzyk-Kulun
Karagaity
N°141
N°140
N°139
4549
Kara-Djulga
4398
4395
N°154
4395
Tazakuu
Terek à 11km
4201
4350
Kashkasu 4631
Djankonysh 4446
Zor 4565
4443
4398

Orographic scheme of Southeastern Ferghana

picture 84. Southern Ferghana range, glacier Chon-Kararoman (courtesy of Dmitry Shapovalov)

picture 85. Glacier Ochi-Koman (courtesy of Dmitry Shapovalov)

A.8. The Northern Tien-Shan

A.8.1) General description of dTrans-Ili and Kungey Ala-Too Ranges (to be published)

A.8.2) Valley of the Northern spurs of Trans-Ili Ala-Too Range (Kazakhstan) (to be published)

A.8.3) Chong-Kemin Valley (Kyrgyzstan) (to be published)

A.8.4) Chilik Valley (Kazakhstan) (to be published)

A.8.5) Southern spurs of Kungey Ala-Too and North Shore of Issyk-Kul Lake (Kyrgyzstan) (to be published)

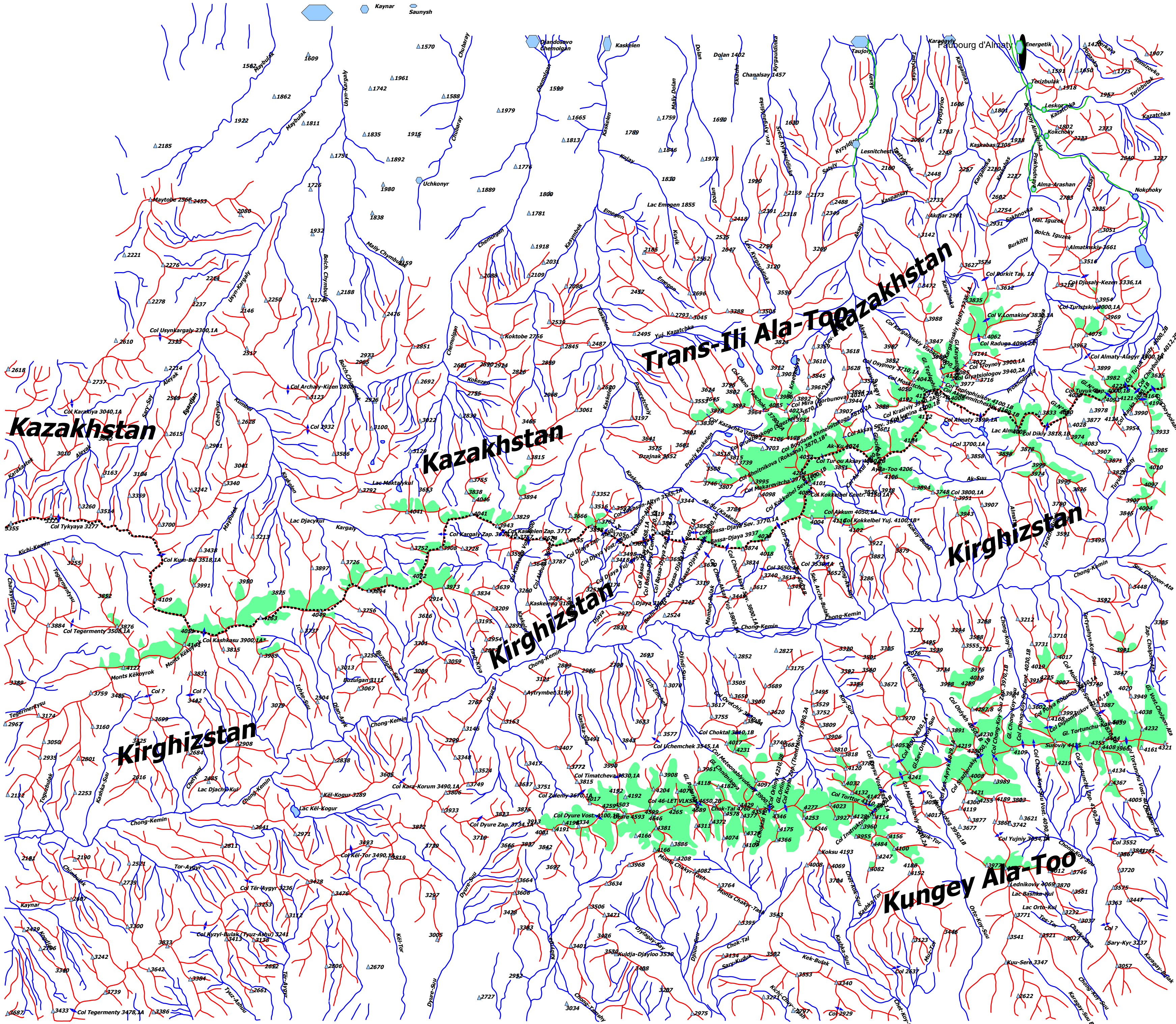

Kazakhstan
Trans-Ili Ala-Too
Kazakhstan
Kazakhstan
Kirghizstan
Kirghizstan
Kirghizstan
Kungey Ala-Too
Faubourg d'Almaty

figure 25 : Orographic scheme of Trans-Ili Ala-Too and Kungey Ala-Too, Western area

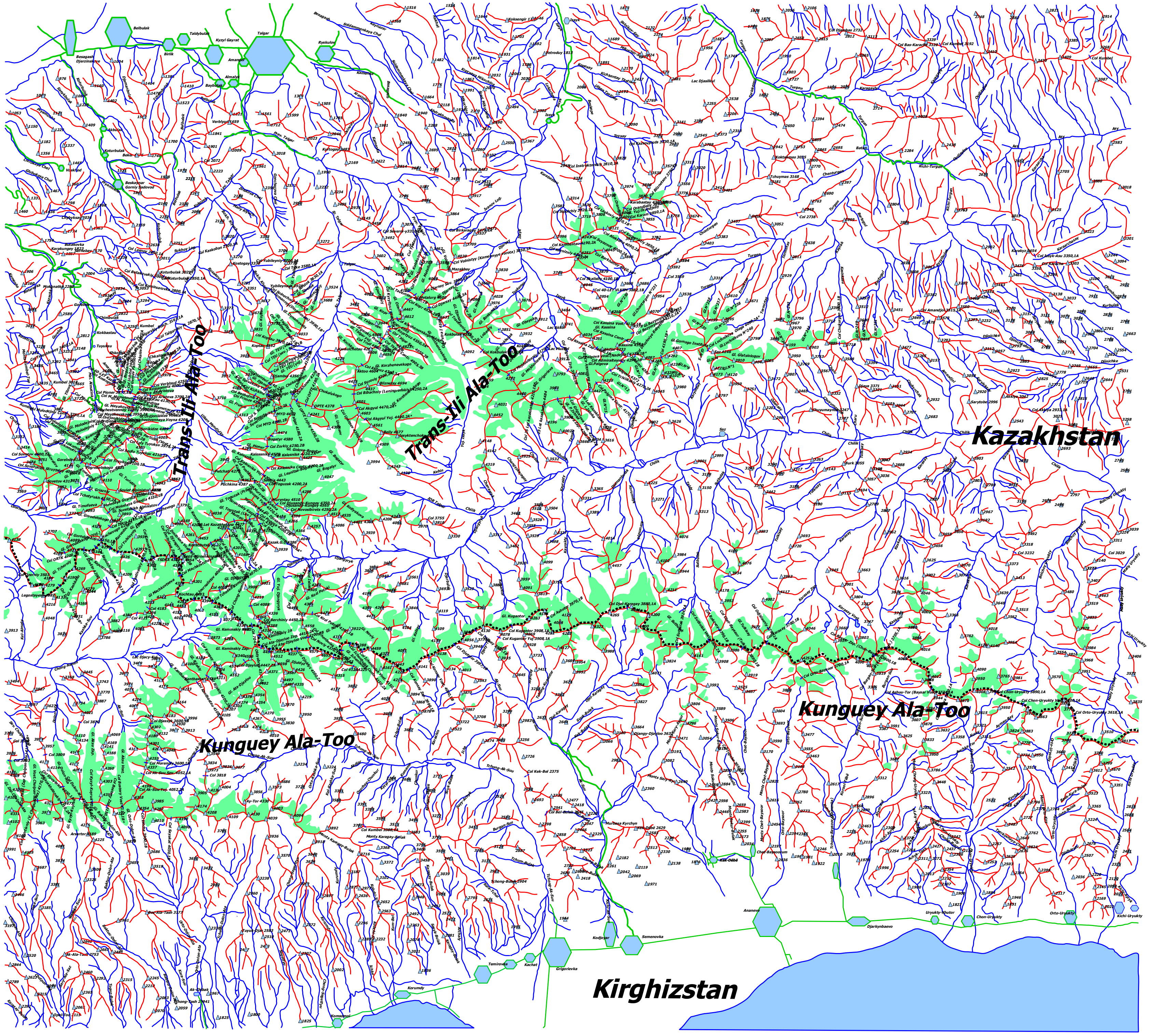
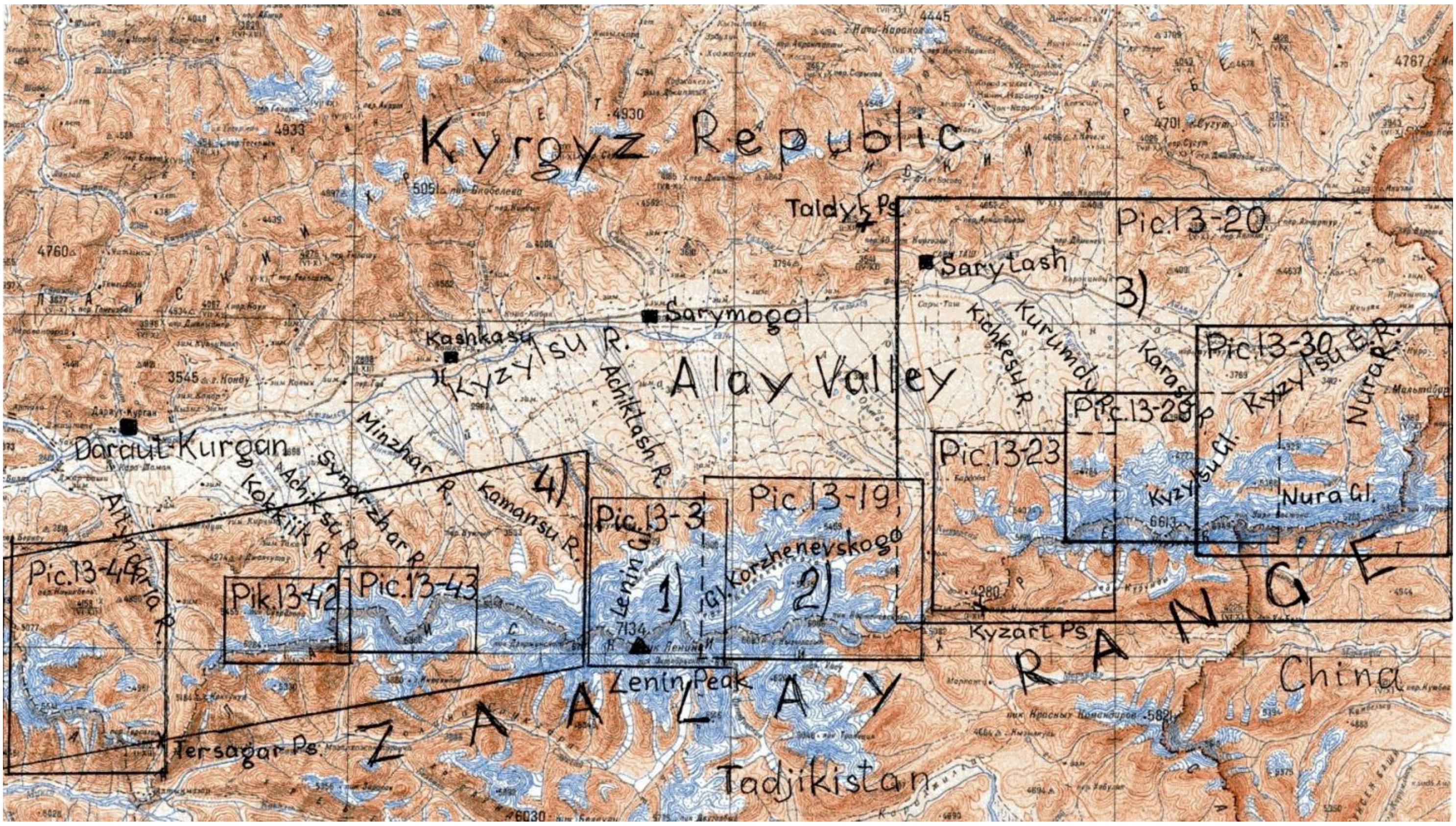

Trans-Ili Ala-Too
Trans-Ili Ala-Too
Kazakhstan
Kunguey Ala-Too
Kunguey Ala-Too
Kirghizstan

figure 26 : Orographic scheme of Trans-Ili Ala-Too and Kunguey Ala-Too, Eastern area

B. Le Pamir

B.1. Zaalayskiy range (translation Trans-Alay)

The Range is located in the South-West part of Kyrgyzstan on the border of Tajikistan and China. It is part of the northern Pamir, which is called the Pamiro-Alay. The Zaalaisky Range administratively refers to the Chon-Alay and Alay districts of the Osh oblast of Kyrgyzstan. The length of the Range is more than 200 km in an east-west direction. The border with Tajikistan and China extends along the axial watershed part of the Range.


Kyrgyz Republic
Taldyk Ps
Sarytash
Pic.13-20
3)
Sarymogol
Kashkasu
Kyzylsu R.
Achiktash R.
Alay Valley
Kichkesu R.
Kurumdy R.
Karasu R.
Pic.13-30
Kyzylsu E.R.
Nura R.
Daraut-Kurgan
Minzhar R.
Kamansu R.
4)
Synarzhar R.
Achiksu R.
Kokkiik R.
Altyndaria R.
Pic.13-44
Pik.13-42
Pic.13-43
Pic.13-3
Lenin Gl.
1)
Gl. Korzhenevskogo
2)
Pic.13-19
Pic.13-23
Pic.13-29
Kyzylsu Gl.
6613
Nura Gl.
7134
Lenin Peak
Kyzart Ps
RANGE
ZAALAY
China
Tersagar Ps
Tadjikistan

Zaalasky Range. Mountaineering areas: 1) Lenin Peak and Achiktash valley, 2) Korzhenevsky Glacier; 3) Eastern part of the Range situated in the East of Kyzart Pass and, 4) Western part of the Range located to the West direction from Achiktash Gorge.

The Zaalayskiy Range is one of the most famous climbing areas in the world because Lenin Peak (7134m) is located here. Lenin Peak is one of the most accessible and technically easy peaks in the world with an altitude of more than 7000m. However, despite the easy access, this region is largely unexplored in general, with the exception of the Lenin Peak area. This is the one summit which is more than 7000m in this region, a further 57 summits are more than 6000 in height and there are many peaks in the range of 4000-6000m, with most of them still unclimbed (virgin). The paraxial (central axis) part of the Range consist of metamorphic rocks, which changes to sediments in the lateral part of the Range such as limestone, dolomites, sandstones and conglomerates. The northern slopes of the Range, which face Kyrgyzstan, are ice covered. Glaciers flow from the tops and ridges widely covering the lower slopes. There are many snowice climbing routes in the Range. The best season for climbing is the period from July to October when the weather is the most stable. The climate of the Zaalasky Range is considerably less harsh than that of the Tien-Shan. The mid-temperature in the Achiktash base camp (located at an altitude of 3600m) in the period of July - August is +10°C. Precipitation is greatest in the period from April to early June; the least rainfall being in August - September. We can divide the range into four parts according to the level of exploration, landscape features and accessibility. The central part of the range is the place of two regions location: 1) Lenin Peak and Achiktash Valley; 2) Korzhenevskiy Glacier; the next is 3) the eastern part of the range located to the east direction from Kyzart Pass and 4) western part of the range located to the west direction from Achiktash Gorge. The approach from the Osh City (which has an international airport) to the Alay Valley goes along high quality asphalted highway through the Taldyk Pass (3615m) up to Sarytash Village. The distance is 180 km takes about 3 hours. From here the various approaches to the different regions of the range are accessed.

The exploration of the Zaalayskiy Range started in the beginning of 19th century with various Pamir expeditions from the Russian Empire led by Fedchenko (stops at the foothill of Alay Range in Daraut Kurgan), Mushketov, Korzhenevsky, and Severtsev and these were continued into the first half of 20th century by Soviet expeditions. Lenin Peak was discovered in 1871 by the Fedchenko expedition and called Kaufman Peak (who was Governor General of Turkestan Region of Russian Empire at that time, seen only from Daraut-Kurgan). Climbers of a Russian-German-Austrian expedition, Karl Wien, Eugene Allwein and Erwin Schneider made the first ascent in 1928 and renamed the summit Lenin Peak. Exploration of climbing in the region commenced then and was initially concentrated around Lenin Peak and the Korzhenevsky glacier. In 2000, alpinists started a more intensive exploration of the eastern part of the area from the Kyzart Pass eastwards. As of 2018, the western part of the region remains unexplored by climbers. This is reflected in the list of first ascents below. However, it should be noted that mountain tourists commenced an intensive exploration of this region after 2000 using long trekking tours through mountain passes, although these itineraries avoid the more technically difficult summits.

Expeditions' supply. There are only a few tour companies operating in Kyrgyzstan, which can provide the necessary services and support for independent expeditions to the Zaalasky Range. In the immediate area of Lenin Peak there are six tour companies operating who can provide all the needed services.

Transport. Please take into consideration that a cross country (off-road) vehicle is required to access the gorges of the Range, while there is an asphalted highway to Sarytash Village and further along to the Range to the east and to the west, you can only reach the base camps of Achiktash Valley by this road. There is no possibility to hire a cross country vehicle in the Alay valley and there is no such type of transport available in Osh. Consequently, it is necessary to hire this type of the vehicle in Bishkek.

Horses. It is not a problem to arrange horses for an expedition; these are widely available in the Alay villages through the CBT Association (http://cbtkyrgyzstan.kg/). Also, there is in Achiktash Valley possivle to find horses from local nomads for deliver of load or riding.

Food. Basic foodstuffs such as bread, sugar, flour, cereals and fresh meat can be purchased in the Alay Valley villages. However, the range of the food here is limited and not sufficient to support an expedition and therefore it is recommended that, as all the tour operators operating in the Alay region do, the majority of foodstuffs be purchased in Osh.

Expedition Staff. Cooks to work up to the altitude of 4000m, low level porters, local guides and horsemen for trekking can be hired in Alay Valley through the CBT Association. Other more specialized staff such as high mountain guides, alpinism instructors, high altitude porters and cooks etc. to work at the altitude more than 4000m, can be hired through the local tour operators Expedition equipment. This specialized sort of equipment – tents (base camp and high altitude), mobile kitchens, kitchen equipment, electric supply, USB-stations, satellite phones, replacing missing climbing equipment (for instance, by reason of lost baggage) – can be rented from the tour operators mentioned above.

Communication. The mobile phone network of most of the Kyrgyz providers is available almost everywhere. However, for some remoter parts of the Range, a connection is only possible via a satellite phone.

Formalities. All climbing areas of the Zaalay Range are located in the border zone and consequently a border permit is required. It is recommended that passport registration (if required) be arranged in one of the big cities upon arrival (e.g. Bishkek or Osh). Passport registration is also possible to arrange through tour operators in Daraut Kurgan the capital village of the Chon-Alay district.

B.1.1) Achik-Tash valley of Zaalayskiy range (figure 14a, photos 60-72)

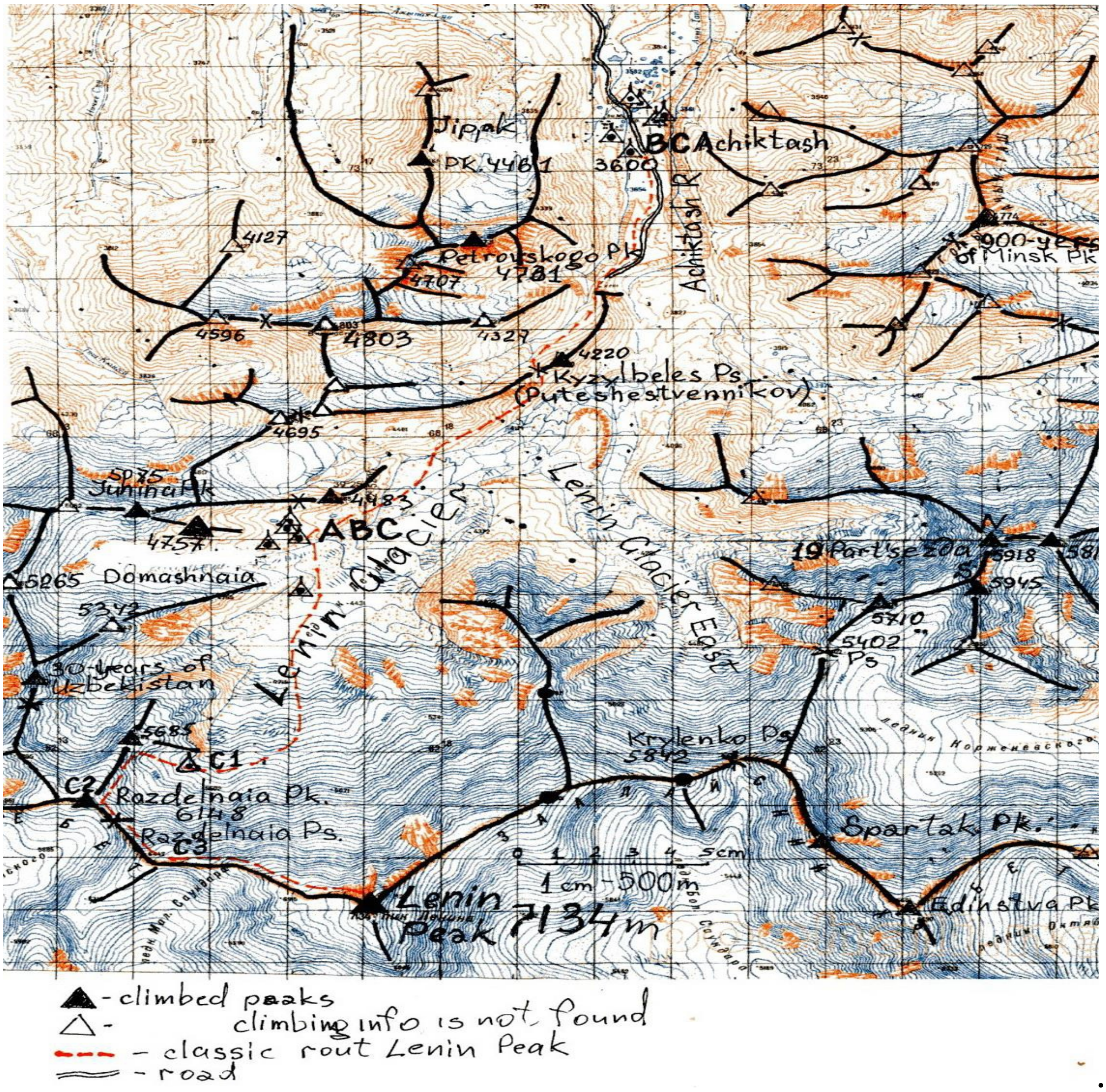
Achik-Tash. The area occupies northern slopes of the Zaalayskiy range on the border with Tadjikistan 20 km from Kashkasu village. Slopes and mountain tops are covered with snow and ice due to the severe glaciation. Elevation is up to 3,000m. Routes are not technically difficult and on snow or snow-ice. This circumstance gives great opportunity for high-altitude climbing to people even without special skills. The climate is much milder than of the Tien-Shan. The average temperature of July-August is 10°C in the Achiktash base camp. The heaviest precipitation is in April through beginning of June and the least is in August-September. Mountain road from Osh city goes over Taldyk pass (3,615m) right to the base camp. The distance is 220 km. However beside Achiktash side, Lenin Peak can be climbed from the neigh3boring gorge Kamansu via Razdelnaya peak. Due to the popularity there are a lot of expeditions, base camps and climbers from all over the world at Achiktash grounds. But route from the Kamansu gorge is not used very often despite the fact that ascend time is the same, the route is less dangerous and base camp can be reached by car.

Little history. The summit was first described in 1871 by the Russian geographer and traveler A.P. Fedchenko, who called the summit Peak Kaufman after the local governor-general of that time. In 1928, the first ascent to the summit was done by a Pamir Russian-German expedition, the climbers being the German pair of Karl Wien and Eugene Allwein and the Austrian alpinist Erwin Schneider. They renamed the summit Lenin Peak. Two further ascents to the summit were done before the Second World War. A new stage of exploration of the area started after the Second World War and went through until the end of the 1960s, with the latter part of this era being marked with organization of numerous mass high altitude ascents. Mass international jubilee mountaineering competitions took place in 1967 and these were unprecedented for a summit of such an altitude. Competitions were dedicated to 50th anniversary of Soviet revolution, when 301 persons, including 60 climbers from other countries, reached the summit via a number of different routes (4 routes were climbed first time). More mass ascents to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Lenin took place in 1970. Regular ascents to the summit started in 1972 when the first Soviet Union International Mountaineering Camp (IMC) was arranged in Achiktash. This camp received tourists from across the world. That was the famous Soviet Union "International Mountaineering Camp" who gave the name of actual ITMC. In 2006 the government of Tadjikistan gave new name for the Lenin Peak, Peak Abu-ibn-Sina, in honor of the famous Persian-Tadjik erudite Avicenne, but the government of Kyrgyzstan left the old name (the mountain is on Tadjik-Kyrgyz border, perhaps sometimes one heard about the name “Chon-Ton” given by kirghiz for the mountain). Nowadays the mountain is broadly recognized by the international community as Lenin Peak. Today, hundreds of mountaineering tourists from the different parts of the planet come to the area to attempt an ascent of Lenin Peak, to undertake trekking or to just enjoy the high mountains. About Six Kyrgyz travel companies set up their own base camps to provide services and support for climbing and trekking. In addition, the local government administration together with the Kyrgyz Alpine Club (www.kac.centralasia.kg) and Kyrgyz Mountain Guides Association (http://mguide.in.kg/) arrange annual ethnic-folklore festivals for local people and foreign climbers.

There are 18 known routes to the summit: 9 from the north and 9 from sthe outh from Tadjikistan. The safest and the most popular is the route from the north via Razdelnay peak (6,148m) from Achiktash tract. In the area there are also several peaks below 7,000m but they are not as popular. They are largely neglected because of their comparatively lower altitude.

The region is in the border area and special permit is required.

Cartography. Maps 1/50,000th j43-14-3 and 4 (Kyrgyzstan); j43-26-1 et 2 (Tajikistan) and 1/100,000th j43-14 (Kyrgyzstan) et j43-26 (Tajikistan).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900-years of Minsk Pk
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4327
4220
Kyzylbeles Ps
(Puteshestvennikov)
4695
5075
Juhina Pk
4757
4483
ABC
Lenin Glacier
Lenin Glacier East
19 Part'sezda
5918
5945
5710
5402
Ps
5265
Domashnaia
5342
30-years of Uzbekistan
5685
C1
C2
Razdelnaia Pk.
6148
Razdelnaia Ps.
C3
Krylenko Ps
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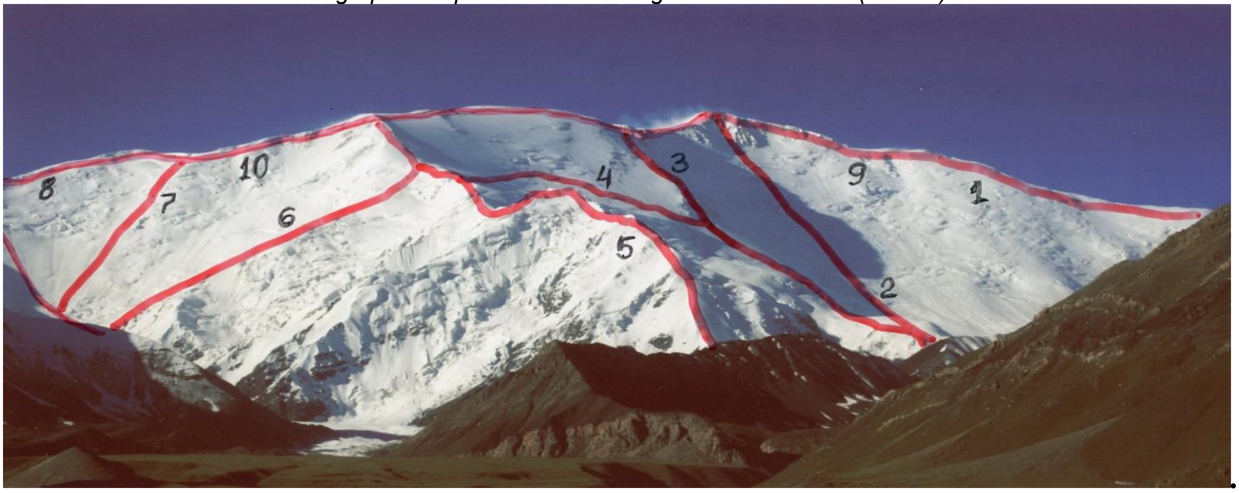
Spartak Pk.
Edinstva Pk
0 1 2 3 4 5cm
1cm - 500m
Lenin Peak 7134m
▲ - climbed peaks
△ - climbing info is not found
--- - classic rout Lenin Peak
═ - road

Orographic map of Achiktash Gorge and Lenin Peak (7134m)


8
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1
2

Lenin Peak routes from the North. 1. Kovalev V.(1954) classic route through Razdelnaya; 2. Arkin J. (1960) N direct line; 3. Chernukha K. (1934), by rib of Lipkin rocks; 4. Ratsek V. (1950) through Lipkin rock to E ridge; 5. Skurlatov J. (1967), along the Northern rib; 6. Scott D. (1974), from the East of Lenin Glacier through NE rib and N rib (English route); 7. Benua R. (1974), from the East of Lenin Glacier via E culuar; 8. Cheredova V. (1960), along E ridge from Krylenko Pass; 9. Abalakov V. (1960), traverse from W to E; 10. Kashafutdinov V. (1991), traverse from E to W.

A brief description of the normal route of Lenin Peak 7134 m trough the Razdelnaya Peak

The Lenin Peak, at 7134 meters altitude, is one of the easiest of the World peaks over 7000m. It's located in the Trans-Alay Ridge (Zaalayskiy, Northern sub-range of Pamir mountains) on the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. There is the second biggest city of Kyrgyzstan, Osh, connected by roads and an international airport. On the road between the town of Osh and its base camp (BC) at Achik-Tash is the localities of Gulcha, Taldyk pass, Sary-Tash and Kashka-Suu. The route is 290 km long, including 255 km of asphalt road and 35 km of dirt road between Kashka-Suu and Achik-Tash. This journey lasts from 5 to 7 hours.

At 2018 is Anniversary jubilee of 90 years first ascent. At 2018 July will be held by Kyrgyz Alpine Club Mountaineering Festival consecrate of the event .

Description of the itinerary.

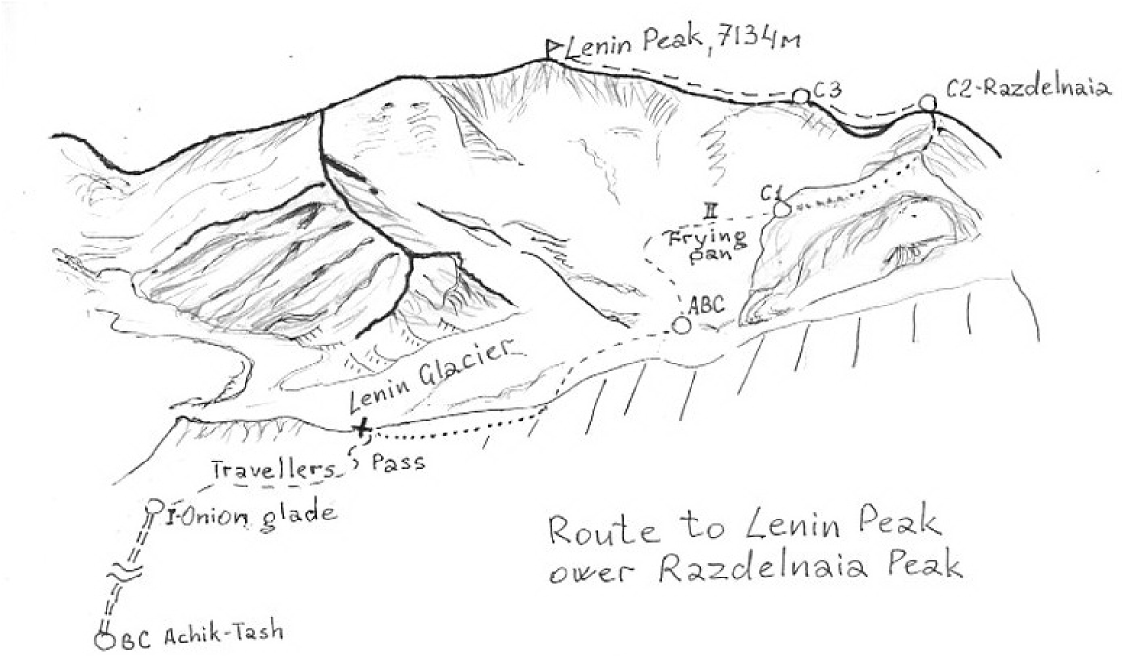


Figure 1. Ascent Scheme of Lenin Peak through the Razdelnaya

BC. 3600 - Advanced Base Camp (ABC), 4300m.

From the base camp in the valley of Achik-Tash to the place called "The Onions glade" the distance on foot or by car is 6 km. Beyond this begins a mountain trail in a small valley rising in a south-westerly gorge below a rocky ridge parallel to the main Achik-Tash valley and the Lenin glacier. The trail reaches a first pass, called "Puteshestvennikov" which can be translated as "Travelogue pass". The climb lasts 1-1.5 hours. From the pass we reach the main valley of Lenin Peak dominating the terminal tongue of the glacier Lenin. There is a first descent (15-20 minutes), then the trail takes a slight rise, always following the same slope on the left bank on an almost constant line to a ford passage of a river (30-60 minutes). Usually in the morning, when the water is not too high, the crossing does not present any particular problem and the walker can easily jump from rock to rock over red waters loaded with alluvial deposits. But after lunch and especially during a hot day, the level of the water is such that the fording can be more difficult and even dangerous. Once the river crosses, the trail climbs the moraines towards the ABC. The final walk takes 1.5-2 hours of time. Total from BC to ABC takes 3-5 hours.

ABC ***Camp, 4300m - Camp 1 (C1) 5200m.***

From the ABC one goes towards the central part of the north slope of the Lenin peak, taking its foot on the Lenin glacier by its first moraines, then going up a long moraine descending from a characteristic spur in the north slopes. This part of the glacial moraines is rather soft, and the few gullies and crevasses are easily circumvented. From the ABC at the foot of the glacier climb, the journey takes about 45-60 minutes. The next rise is more abrupt, taking foot on snowy or frozen slopes oscillating between 15-30 degrees, with some jumps over short distances up to 40 degrees of inclination. At this point the crevasses become very wide and very deep as the climb rises. What may look like many narrow cracks in the area, are also snow bridges to cross sometimes unstable during the day. In this rather steep part of the route, a small glacial plateau is reached at a height of 5000 m, and the trail continues along a south-west and west slope to reach Camp 1 (C1 , 5200). From the foot of the north face to the C1 the duration of the climb is 5-9 hours.

C1 (5200m) - C2, Razdelnaya Peak (6148m)

From the C1 climb into a short glacial valley running along the rocks of the left shoulder of the main ridge leading to Razdelnaya Peak. We reach a pass around 5600 and then we follow the ridge of Razdelnaya Peak to its snowy dome. The slope oscillates according to the sections between 15-30 degrees with the steepest part on the last 300 meters at 6000m. The C2 is slightly on the left of the dome 100 meters from the Razdelnaya dome. The climb from C1 to C2 takes 4-7 hours

C2 (Razdelnaya). 6148 meters - Summit of Lenin Peak, 7134 m - return C2.

From C2 to the summit and back, with a good acclimatization, it usually takes a good day. From the C2, a first short descent to the pass between the Razdelnaya and the NO ridge of Lenin Peak begins. From the pass one rises on a rounded crest of snow interspersed with rocks, little steep to reach a first plateau at 6400 m. Here, at this altitude of 6400 meters it is possible to install a camp 3 (C3) to ensure a better success of the climb. Attention you must choose a location sheltered of the wind often blowing on the flat crest. Higher the peak takes off in a narrower passage towards 6700-6800, about 100 meters long with a slope of 20-30 degrees of variable inclination, called "the knife". In this passage you need insurance, a fixed rope is usually installed but it can be buried under the snow. Higher up the ridge reaches the pre-summit plateau (6900-7000m), and higher reaches the summit for gentle slopes of snow and scree. The top is indicated by a cairn with a cross in a fairly flat area, Lenin's bust is slightly below the top at about 100 meters to the southeast. The descent follows that of the climb. The departure of the C2 must be realized very early in the morning, it is even desirable to realize it at night and at the latest at 5 o'clock in the morning. The total round trip itinerary is 10-14 hours.

Ascension Tactics

The road is technically easy, but the success of climbing depends on the choice of optimal tactics. The main difficulties and dangers that can face a climber are first and foremost the very high altitude, the glacier crevasses, the danger of avalanches and bad weather. Acquiring good acclimatization is of paramount importance. A long experience of climbing at Lenin Peak has shown that the best plan consists of two episodes of acclimatization at high altitude with 1-2 nights at C1 and C2. These periods must be interspersed with rest in the BC, in order to capitalize successive improvements of your body to elevation in altitude. During the acclimatization period and the intermediate ascents, it is advisable to leave the ABC very early in the morning, around 5 hours to get used to the rhythm of the day of the final climb. Acclimatization is usually combined with the rise and installation of intermediate camps at higher altitudes. If the climbers do not have experience of high altitude, a lack of knowledge in their acclimatization capacity and conditions of climbing, it is desirable to climb with mountain guides or experienced instructors. In addition, if the climbers are not confident in their abilities and experience, it is advisable to install an additional camp at an altitude of 6400 m.

Below are principal versions of ascent diagrams. Its, of coarse, could be corrected, but in any case is recommended to keep acclimatisation with two climbing. Also, is recommended to foresee 1-3 days for bad weather.

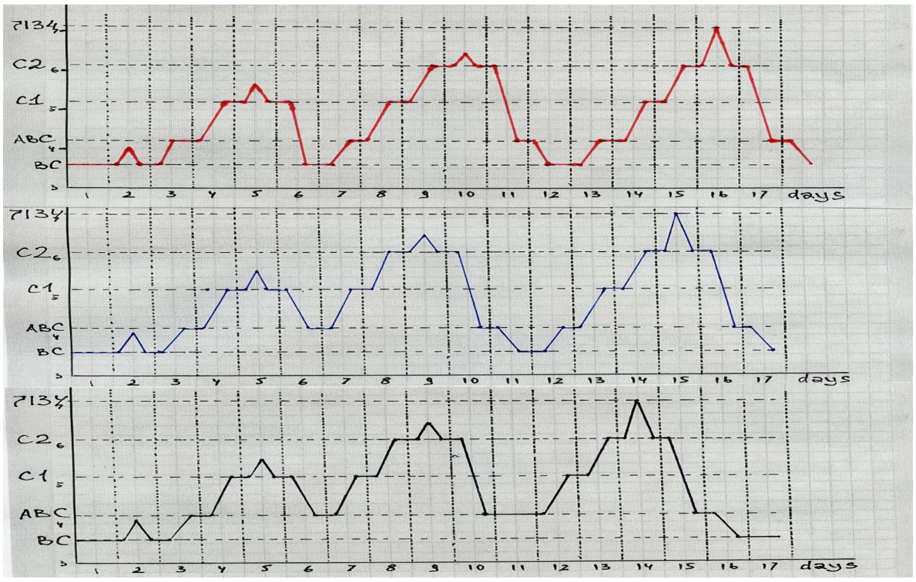


Figure 2. Versions of ascent diagrams.

Safety instructions.

The technical skills required to ensure the safety of this ascent can be summarized as knowledge, skills and abilities to eliminate or reduce the following risk factors during the ascent route. Those are:
(1) the very cracked zone at the passage of the break of glacial slope during the rise of the ABC to the C1. This requires skill in spinning motion on a glacier, rules of passage over snow bridges over crevasses, knowledge of rescue maneuvers and self-rescue equipment at hand if one falls into a crevice;
(2) the ability to determine the avalanche hazard (in particular under the North face), avalanche crossing rules, avalanche search techniques, the possibility of using an avalanche beacon;
(3) improvise and organize the transportation of victims;
(4) organizing first aid

To ensure proper rescue operations in case of emergency during the ascent, it is advisable to register with the organization in charge of the rescue operations in the Kyrgyz Mountains (www.rescue.centralasia.kg, provide at least one month's stay) and have an insurance policy covering the cost of the possible rescue operations up to 30,000 euros.

In addition, Lenin Peak is considered as a border area, and a special access permit is required, which requires a small fee. This permit is to be requested from the military authorities, and Kyrgyz trekking and mountaineering organizations often serve as intermediaries to obtain it.

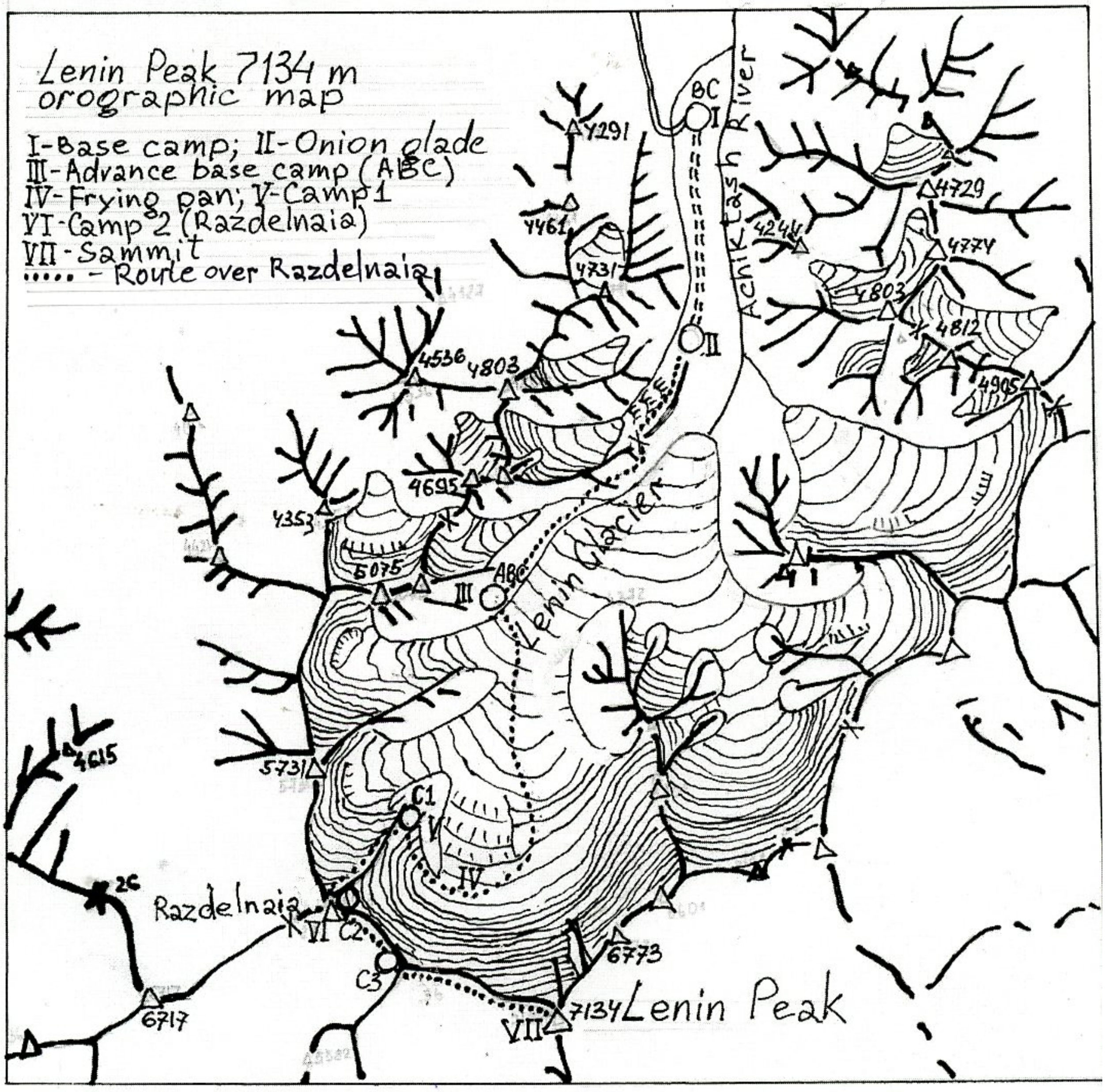

Lenin Peak 7134 m
orographic map
I-Base camp; II-Onion glade
III-Advance base camp (ABC)
IV-Frying pan; V-Camp1
VI-Camp 2 (Razdelnaia)
VII-Sammit
..... - Route over Razdelnaia
BC
I
II
ABC
III
IV
V
C1
VI
C2
C3
VII
Achik-Tash River
Lenin Glacier
Razdelnaia
Lenin Peak
4291
4461
4731
4244
4729
4774
4803
4812
4905
4536
4803
4695
4353
5075
5731
4615
6717
6773
7134

Figure 3. Orographic Schema of Lenin Glacier Basin

Photo Gallery

Photo 1. Lenin Peak from BC Achik-Tash

Photo 2. Lenin Peak.

Photo 3. Sundown over Lenin Peak.

Photo 4a. Base Camp Achik-Tash (3600m)

Photo 4b. BC of ITMC Pamir in the Achiktash valley under Lenin peak

Photo 5. Refectory at BC

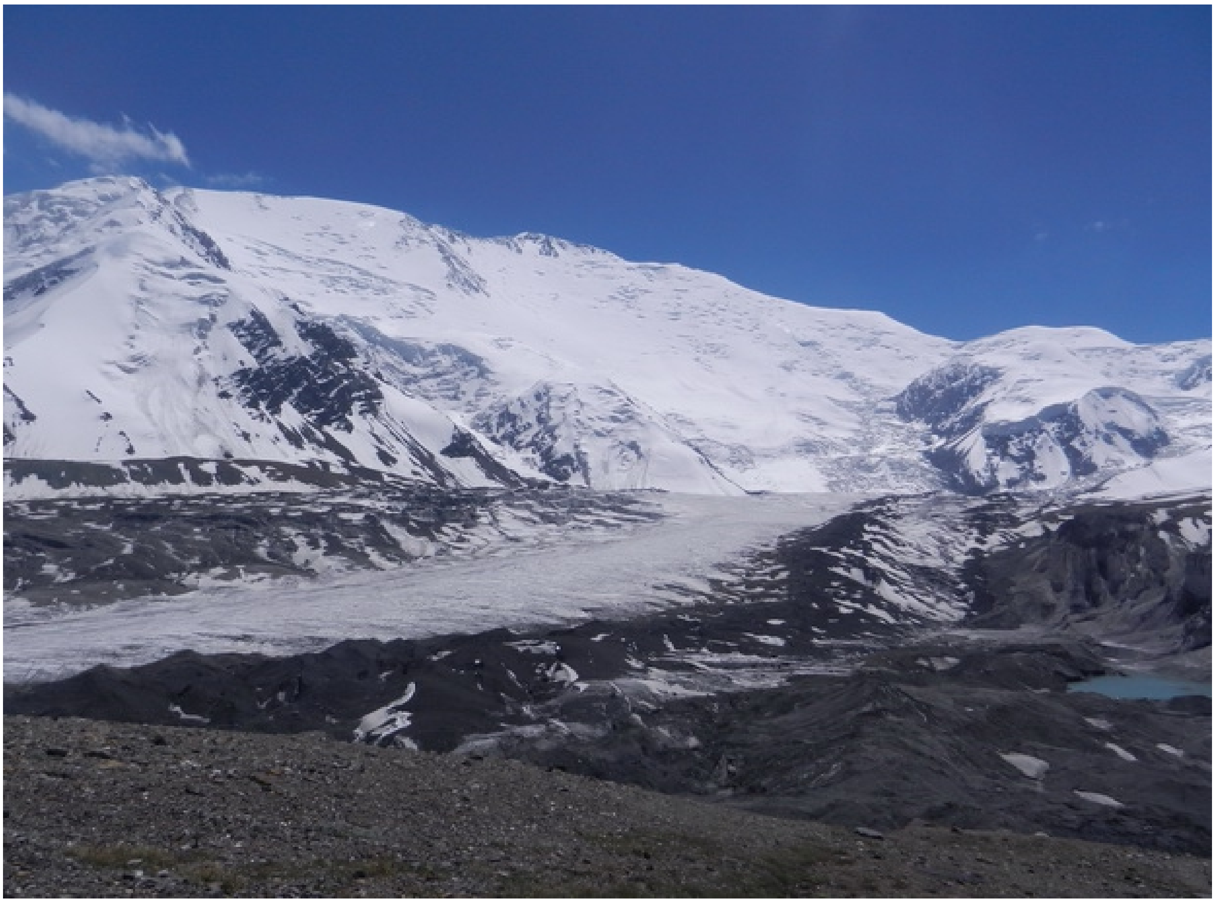


Photo 6. Peak from the Putechestvennikov Pass

Photo 7. Start of Lenin Peak trail

Photo 8. Valley of Putechestvennikov Pass

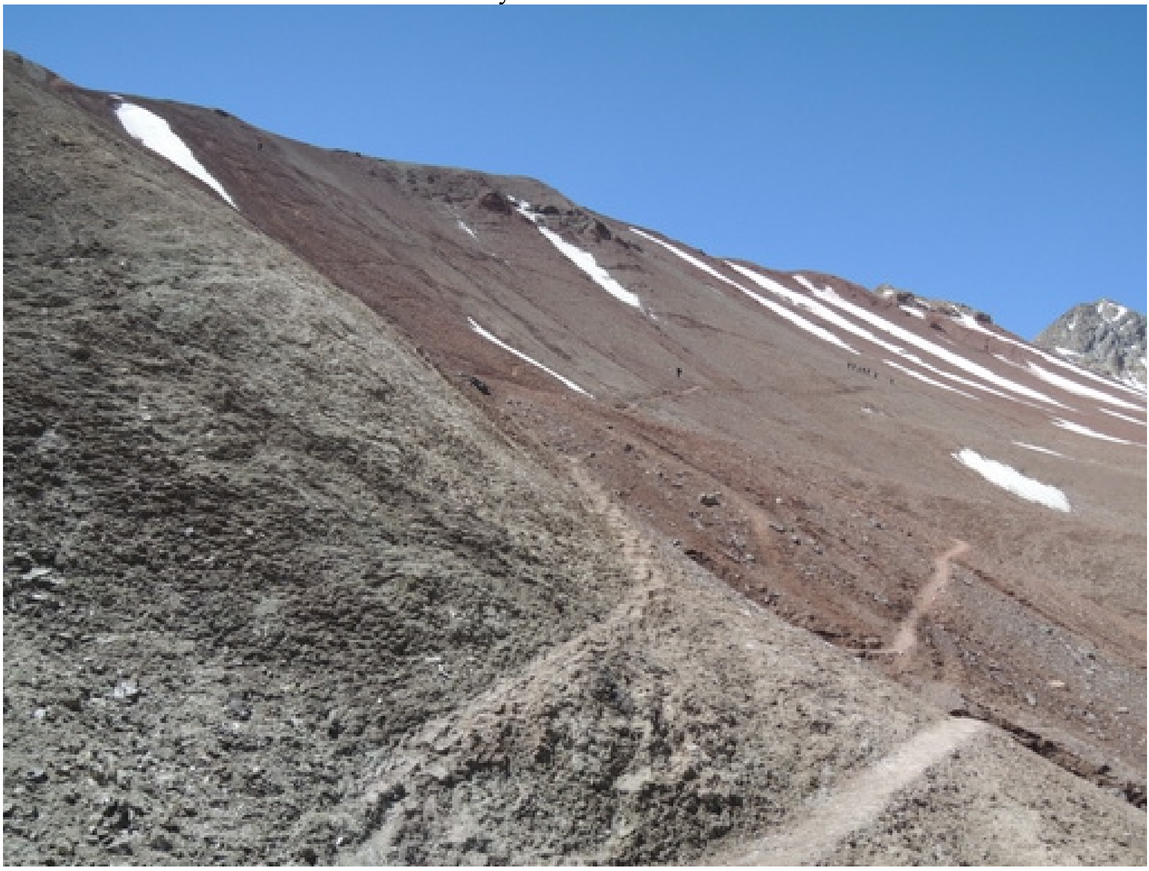


Photo 9. On the way to Putechestvennikov Pass

Photo 10.Trail over the Putechestvennikov Pass

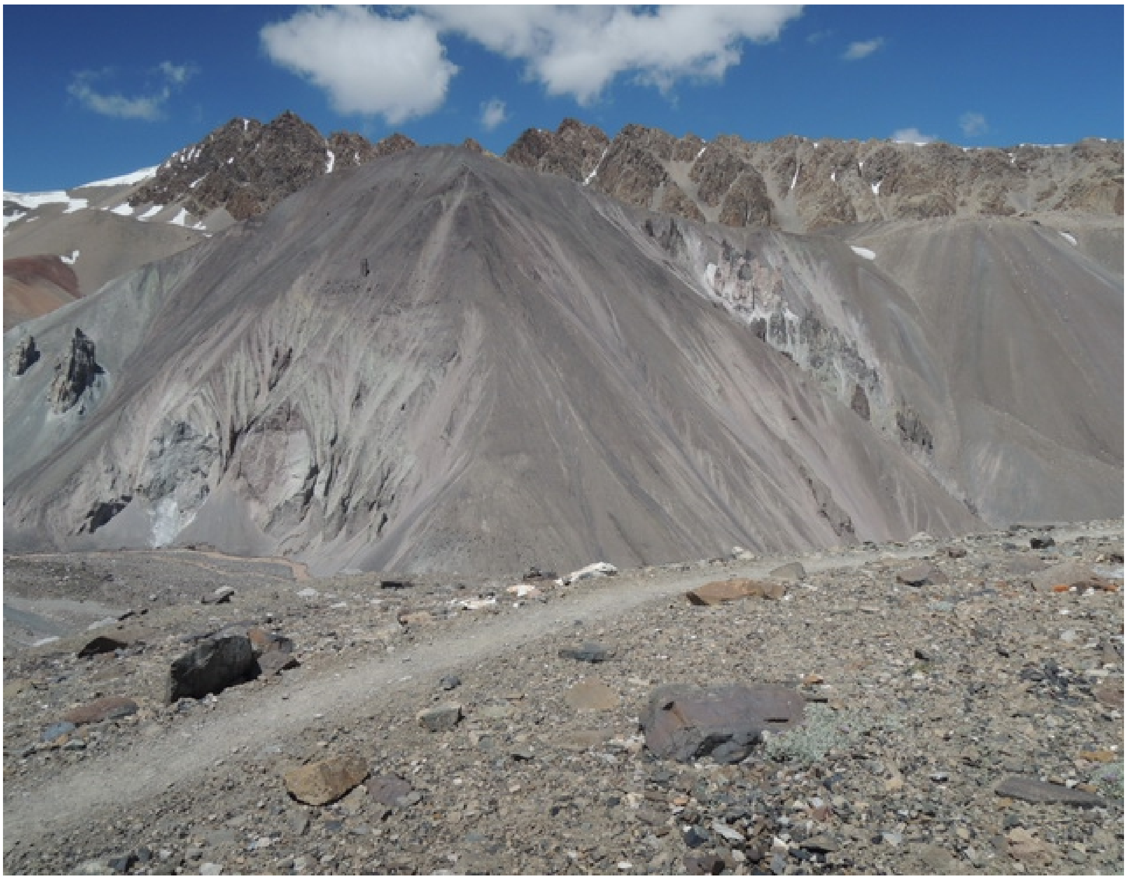


Photo 11. Trail to the ABC over Lenin Glacier Moraine

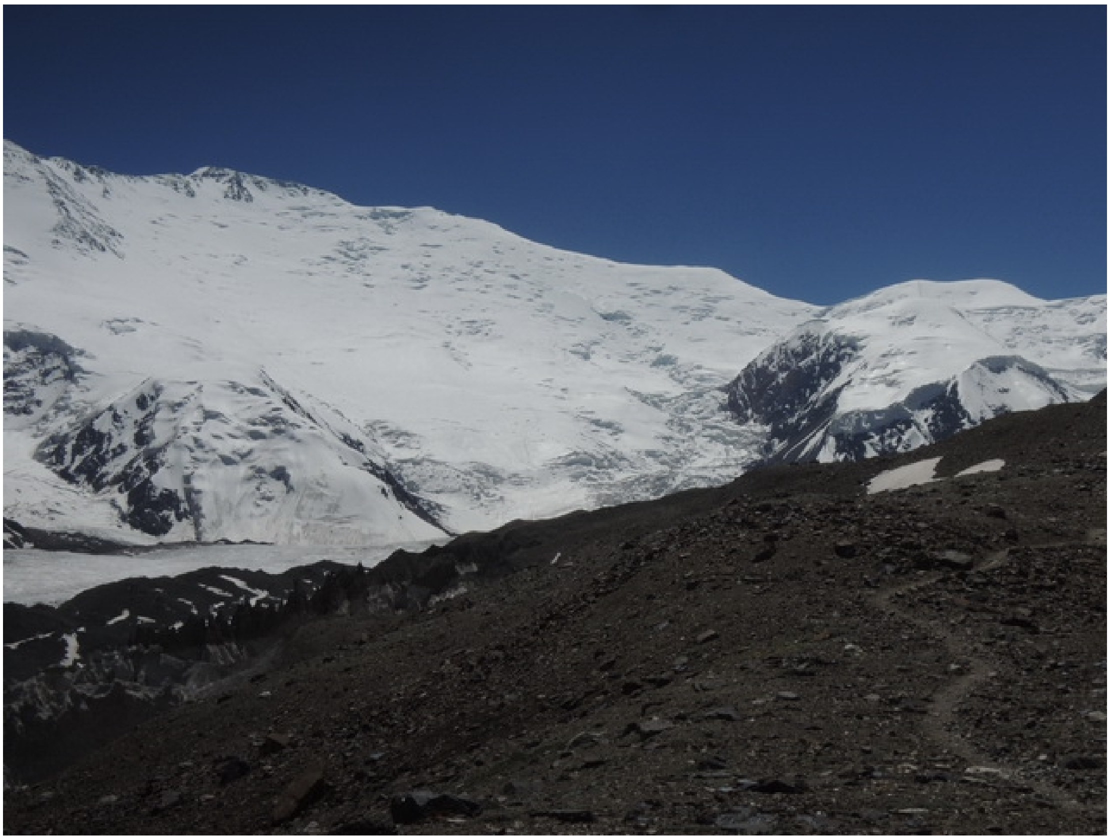


Photo 12. Trail to the ABC over Lenin Glacier Moraine

Photo 13a.Pack transport between the BC and ABC

Photo 13b.Transportation between BC and camp #1 under Lenin Peak

Photo 14.Trail to ABC on the way up to Putechestvennikov pass

Photo 15. Rest at Putechestvennikov Pass

Photo 16. Trail to the ABC over Lenin Glacier Moraine

Photo 17a. ABC over Lenin Glacier moraine

Photo 17b. Another ABC over Lenin Glacier moraine

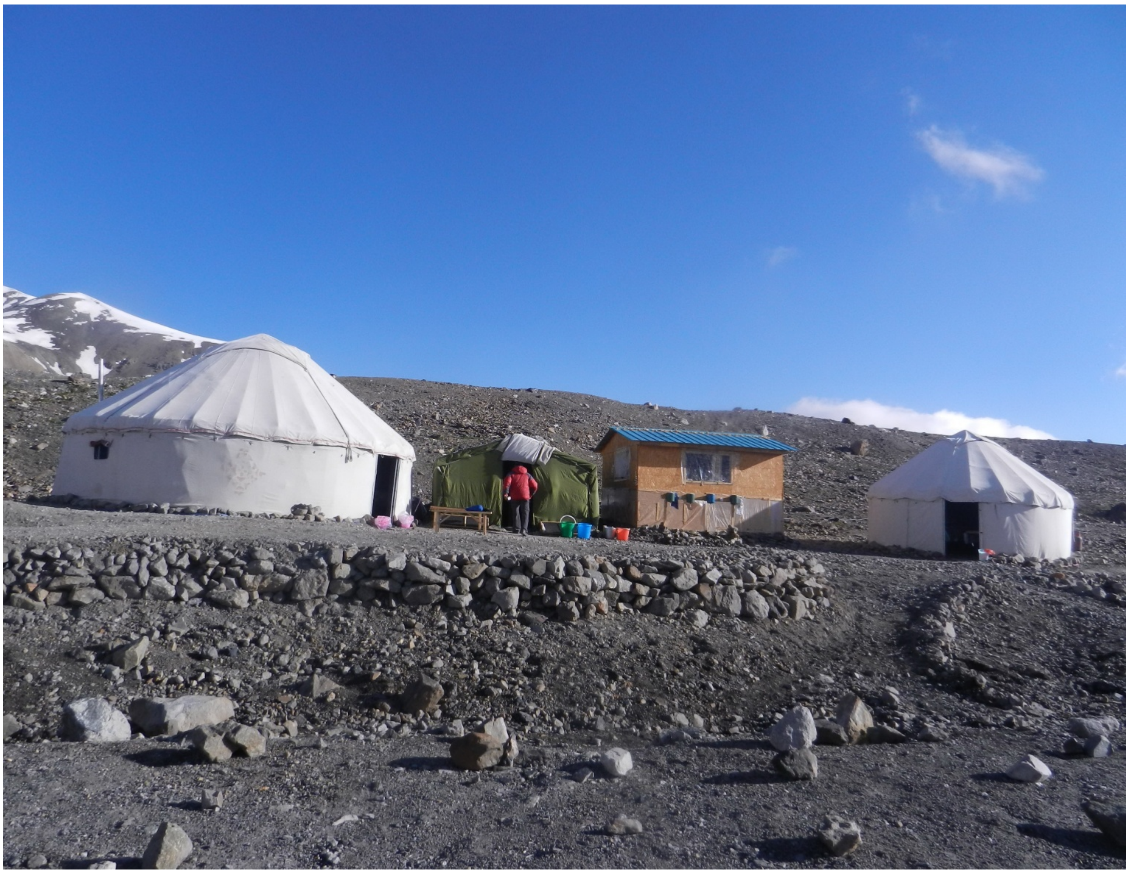


Photo 18. Dining rooms (left and right), a warehouse and a kitchen (in the center) in ABC.

Photo 19. ABC Kitchen

Photo 20. View over Lenin Peak from CBA

Photo 21. In the foreground, the trail over first north slopes on the glacier, on the way to C1

Photo 22. Beginning of the Glacier Route

Photo 23. Beginning of the Glacier Route

Photo 24. Bypassing the zone of cracks along the avalanche

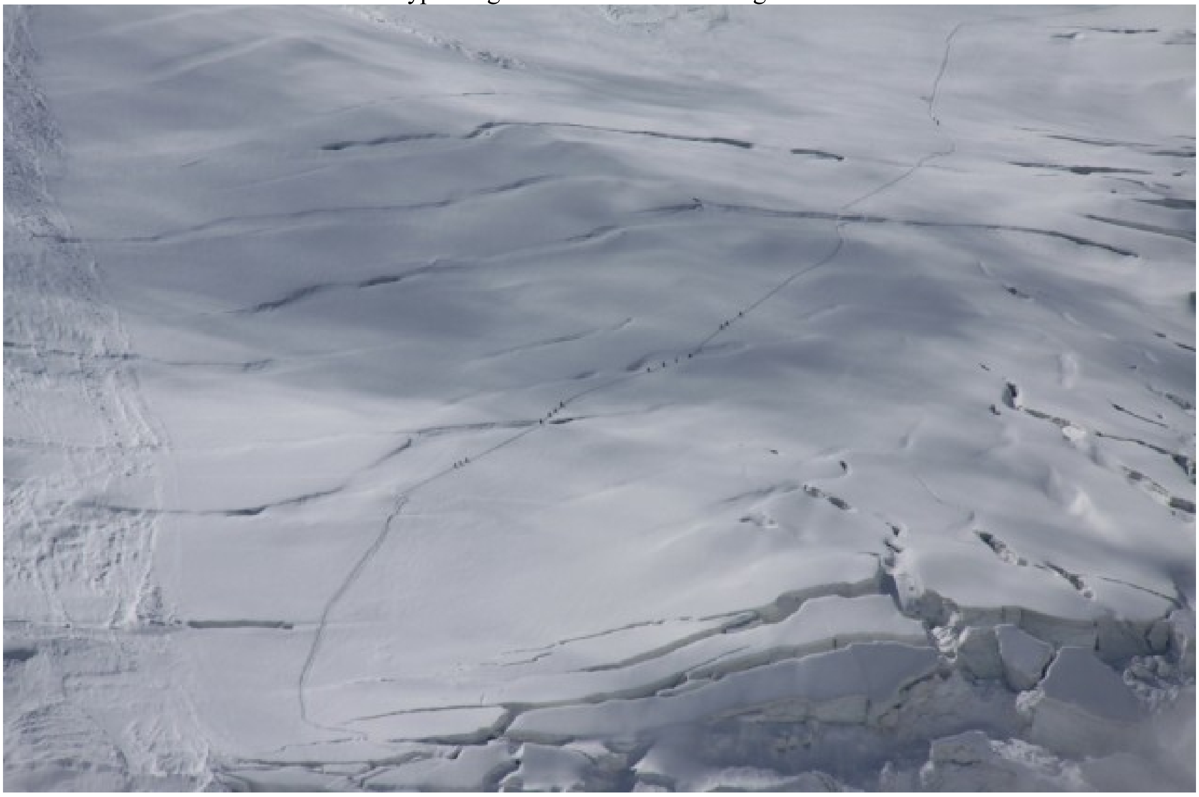


Photo 25. Trail on the way to the "Frying pan"

Photo 26 . On the "Frying Pan"

Photo 27. Right side of the "Frying Pan"

Photo 28. On the way up the "Frying Pan"

Photo 29. On the way up the "Frying Pan"

Photo 30.Overcoming the crack on the way to the "Frying Pan"

Photo 31, On the way up the "Frying Pan"

Photo 32. Passing snow bridges on the "Frying Pan"

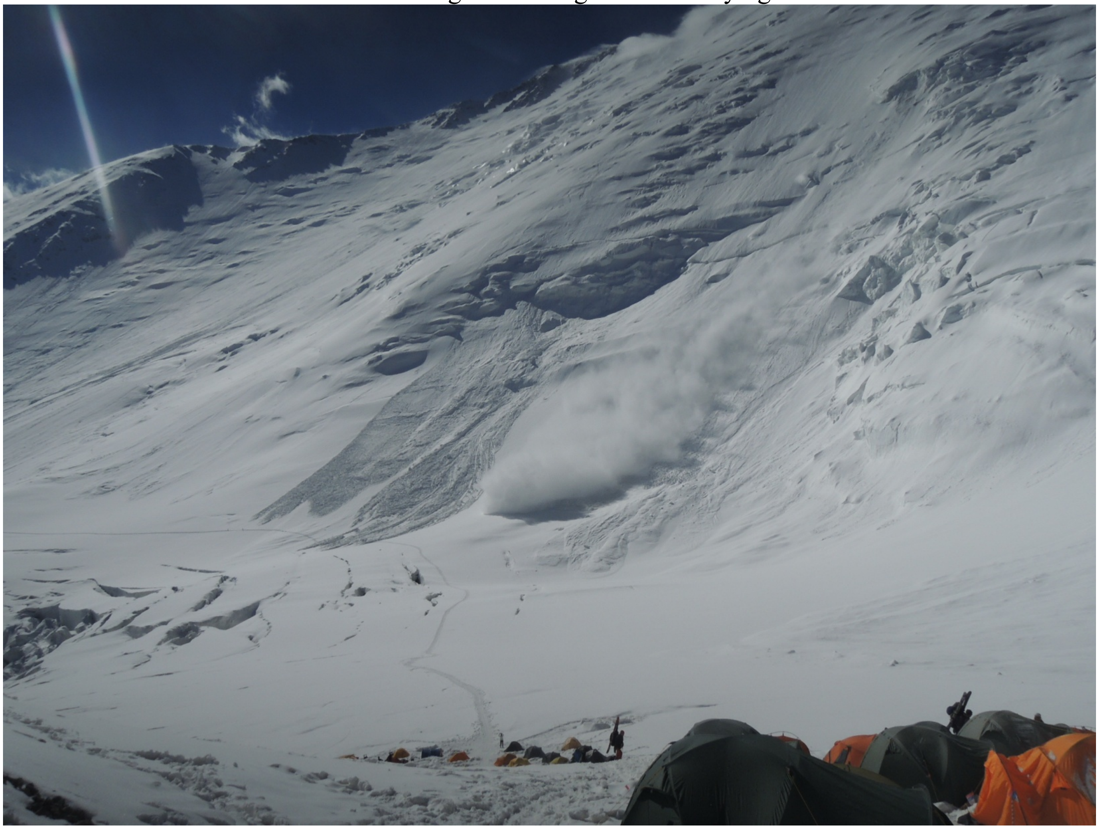


Photo 33. "Frying pan" and the slopes of the peak from C1. There is an avalanche on the way to the "Frying pan"

Photo 34. C1 and the "Frying pan" behind

.

Photo 35. View of C1 and the ridge, which leads to Razdelnaya from the "Frying pan"

Photo 36. C1

Photo 37. Exit to the ridge going to Razdelnaya. In the background C1

Photo 38. The path to the ridge, which leads to Razdelnaya

Photo 39. Up to the Razdelnaya

Photo 40. Somewhere up on the way C1 to Razdelnaya

Photo 41. Arrival to the Razdelnaya

Photo 42.Saddle between Razdelnaya (right) and crest of Lenin Peak

Photo 43. Way up to the Razdelnaya

Photo 44. C2 of Lenin Peak on the Razdelnaya

Photo 45. C2.

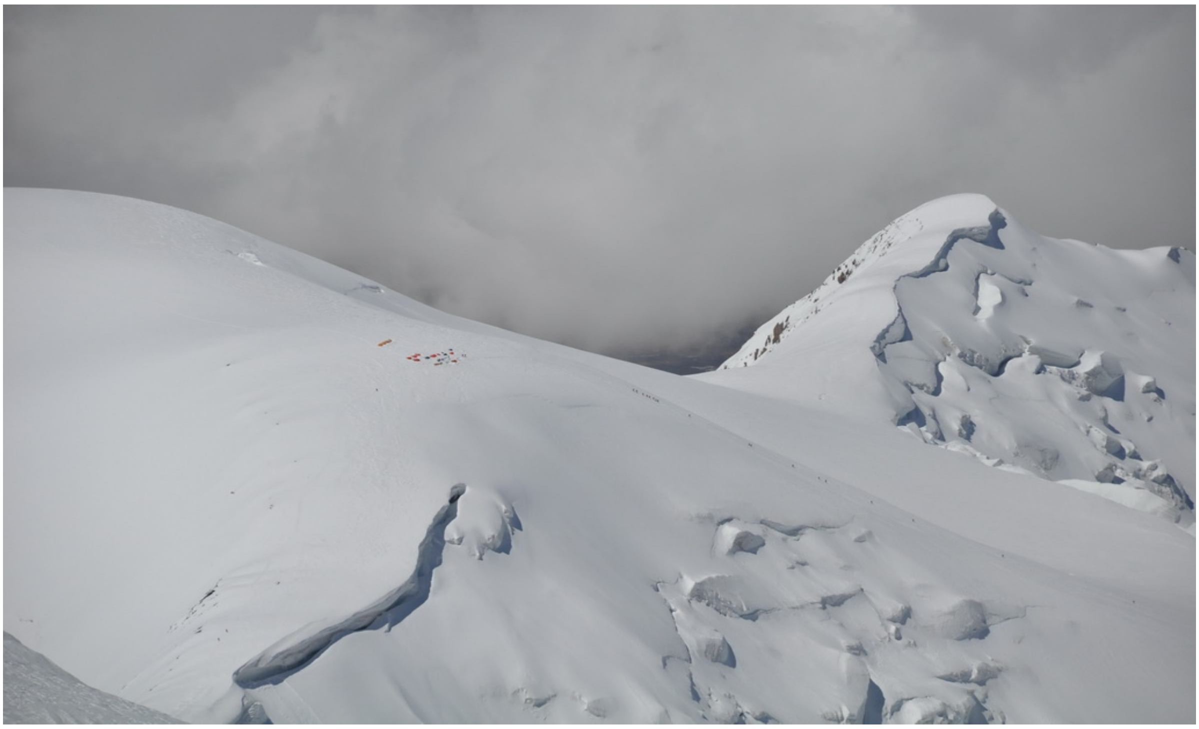


Photo 46. Razdelnaya (left) and C2 to the right of its top. View from the crest of Lenin Peak

Photo 47. Night start to the top of Lenin Peak from C2

Photo 48. View of the crest of Lenin Peak from C2

Photo 49. The path at the pre-summit ridge of Lenin Peak

Photo 50. The pre-summit ridge of Lenin Peak

Photo 51. The pre-summit ridge of Lenin Peak.

Photo 52. The last meters before the peak of Lenin Peak

Photo 53. The last meters before the peak of Lenin Peak

Photo 54. On the roof of Lenin Peak

Photo 55
View of Communism Peak (7495m) and Korzhenevskoy Peak(7105m) from the Lenin Peak

Below are several pictures taken on the approaches to Lenin Peak

Photo 56

Photo 57

Photo 58

Kyrgyz Alpine Club
Union of Asian Alpine Associations
U A A A

Photo 59

Photo 60

Photo 61

Photo 62

Photo 63

Photo 64

Photo 65

Photo 66

Photo 67

Photo 68

Photo 69

Photo 70

Photo 71 - Edelweiss

Photo 72

Photo 73

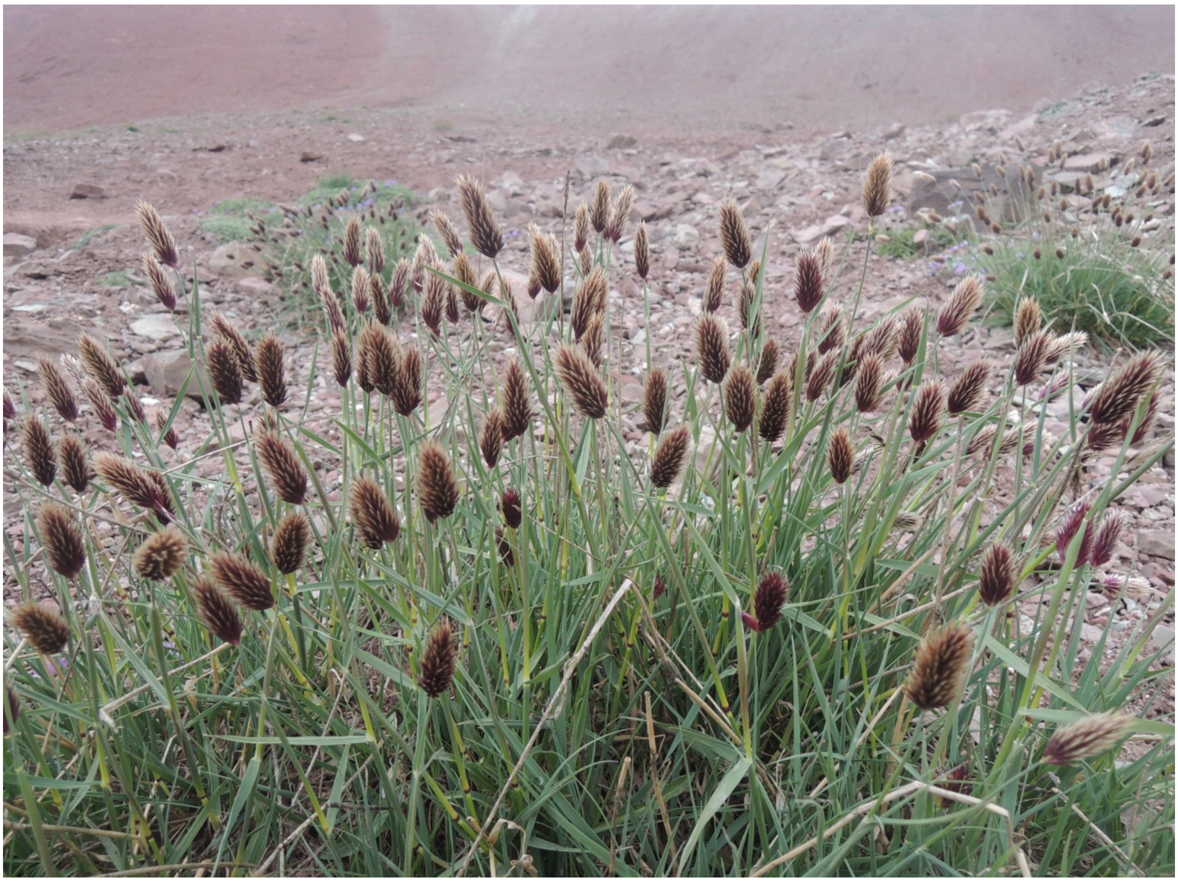


Photo 74

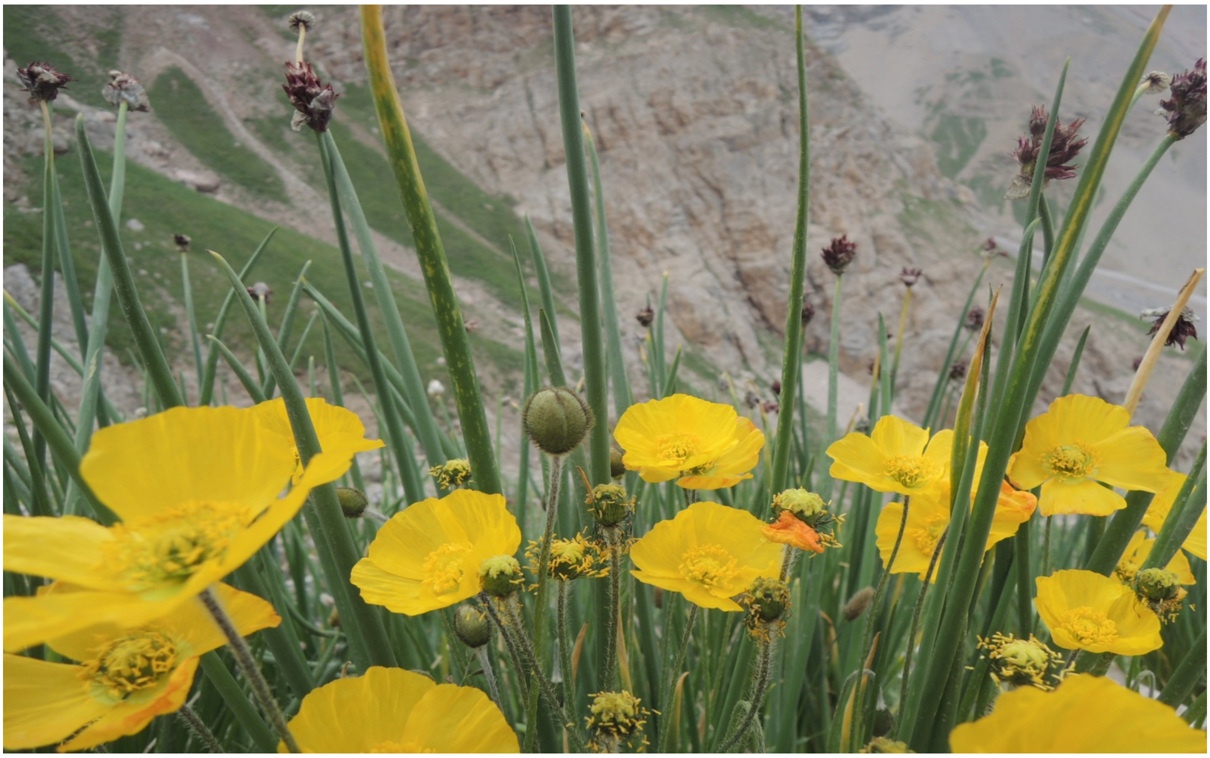


Photo 75

Photo 76

Photo 77

Photo 78

Photo 79

Photo 80

Photo 81

Photo 82

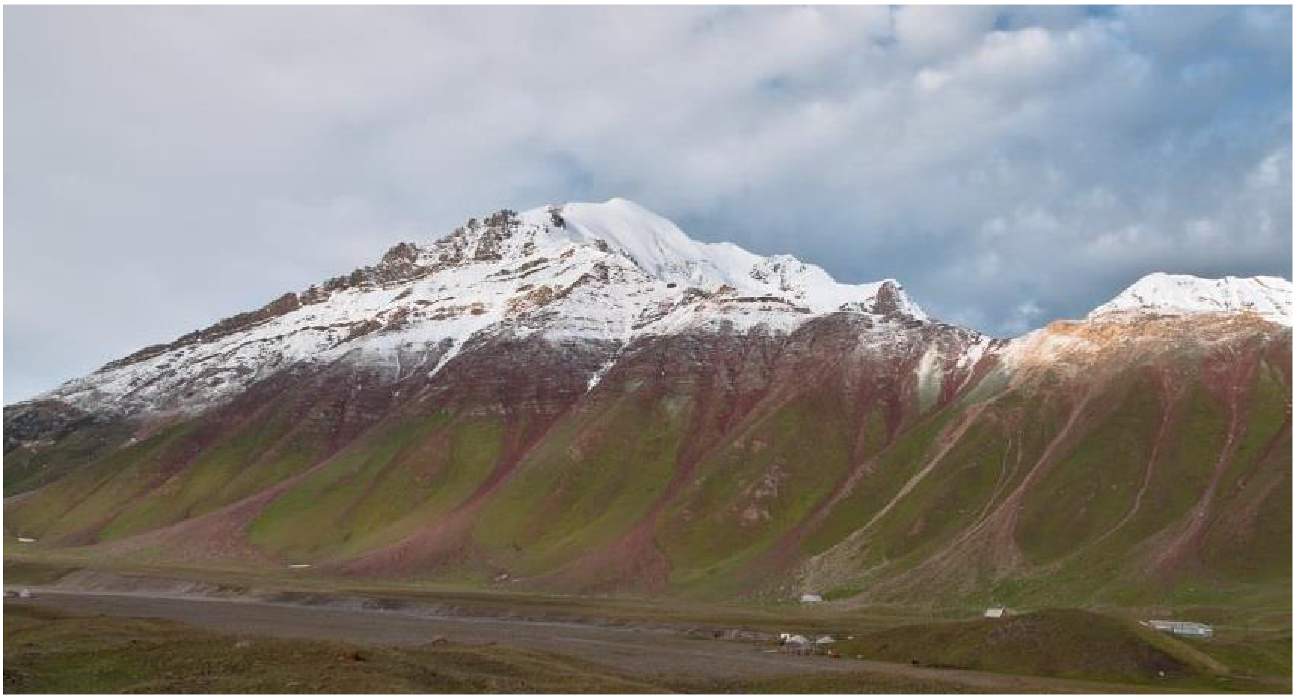
ITMC
KYRGYZSTAN
PREMIUM BANANAS

Photo 83 - Return to Osh's Bazar

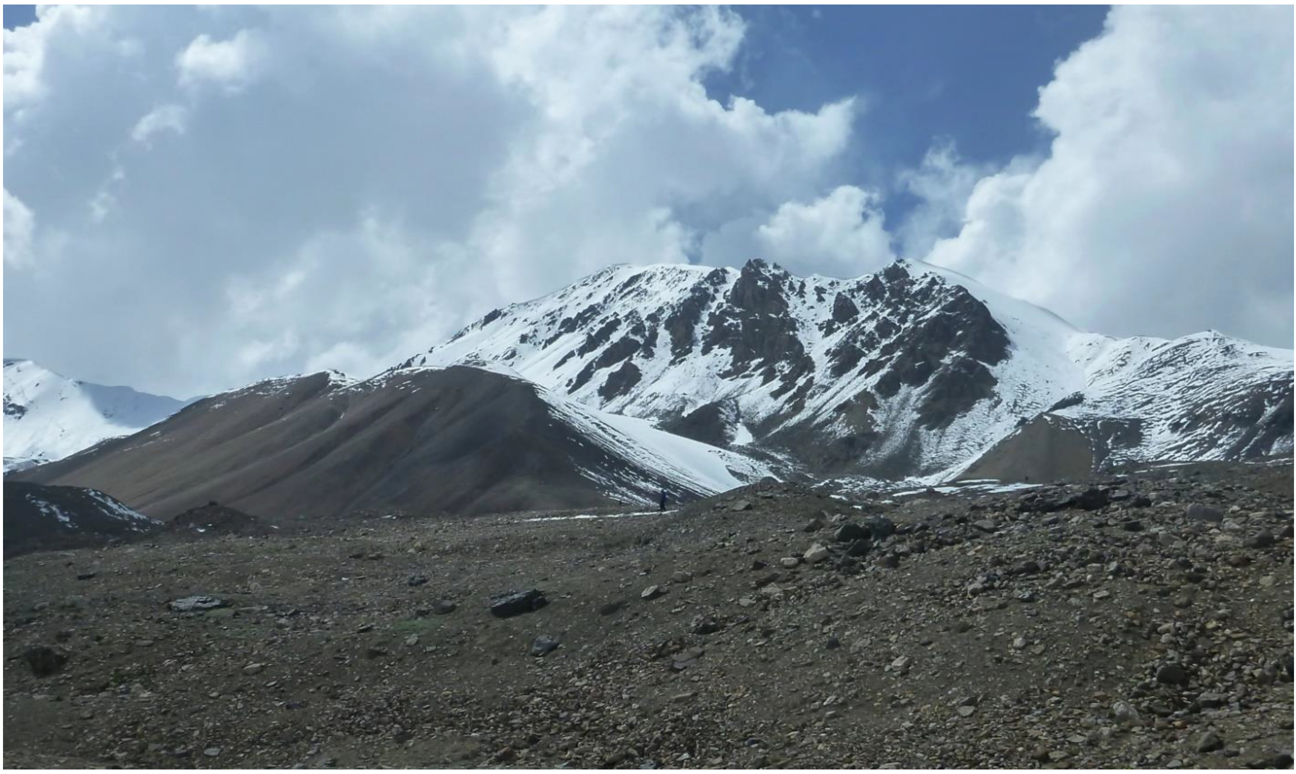
Neighboring mountains to Lenin Peak. There is a possibility to climb many other summits, other than Lenin Peak in this area. These peaks are recommended for both acclimatization purposes as well as for individual ascent. As soon as you arrive in Achiktash you can go from the base camp to Petrovskogo Peak (4737-4807 m) as the first stage of acclimatization, Lagernaya Peak 4461, Little Lagernaya Peak 4209 (both along the Nord Ridge from Petrovskogo). Along the South Ridge from Petrovskogo one can go to the Razvedyvatelniy pass 4500 m (just opposite of traverler's pass, Puteshestvenikov). There three peaks were easy to climb, one on the South at 4750, two on the North both around 4800 meters (it's better to establish a camp just below the Razvedyvatelniy pass, and to combine all these nearby ascents the next day, try go higher to find clear waters on tributaries of the main river valley !). A side peak at 4596 m is also easily reachable and offer views of the west valley of Achik-Tash (Koman). One the same ridge south of Petrovskogo a short and relatively flat glacier give access to rock towers above 4600 (almost three ones in ruins) and a flat icefield pass on North of Razvedyvatelniy (we thus called it the South-Razvedyvatelniy pass). These towers is just South of the 4750 m - Peak Razvedyvatelniy-South. From these towers one can see the ABC area along Lenin glacier. In the same area both summits (4200, 4300) in each side of the Puteshestvenikov pass (traveler's pass) offer impressive views of the Lenin Glacier Moraine.

There is also an opportunity as part of the first stage of an acclimatization programme to do ascents of the peaks nearest to ABC such as Domashniy (4700m, or Kichi-Yujina, since it lies just at the foot of Yujina), Yujina (5000) and 30th Anniversary of Uzbekistan (5731, 30-Letiya-Uzbekskoy SSR). The last one is a two days ascent form the ABC. One day to establish camp 1 just south of October pass around 5000-5100, and the summit day. The 30-Letiya-Uzbekskoy SSR Peak gives also access along its south ridge to the Razdelnaya Peak (6200). Beware of the possible cornices on the ridge, even if this route is not very technical.

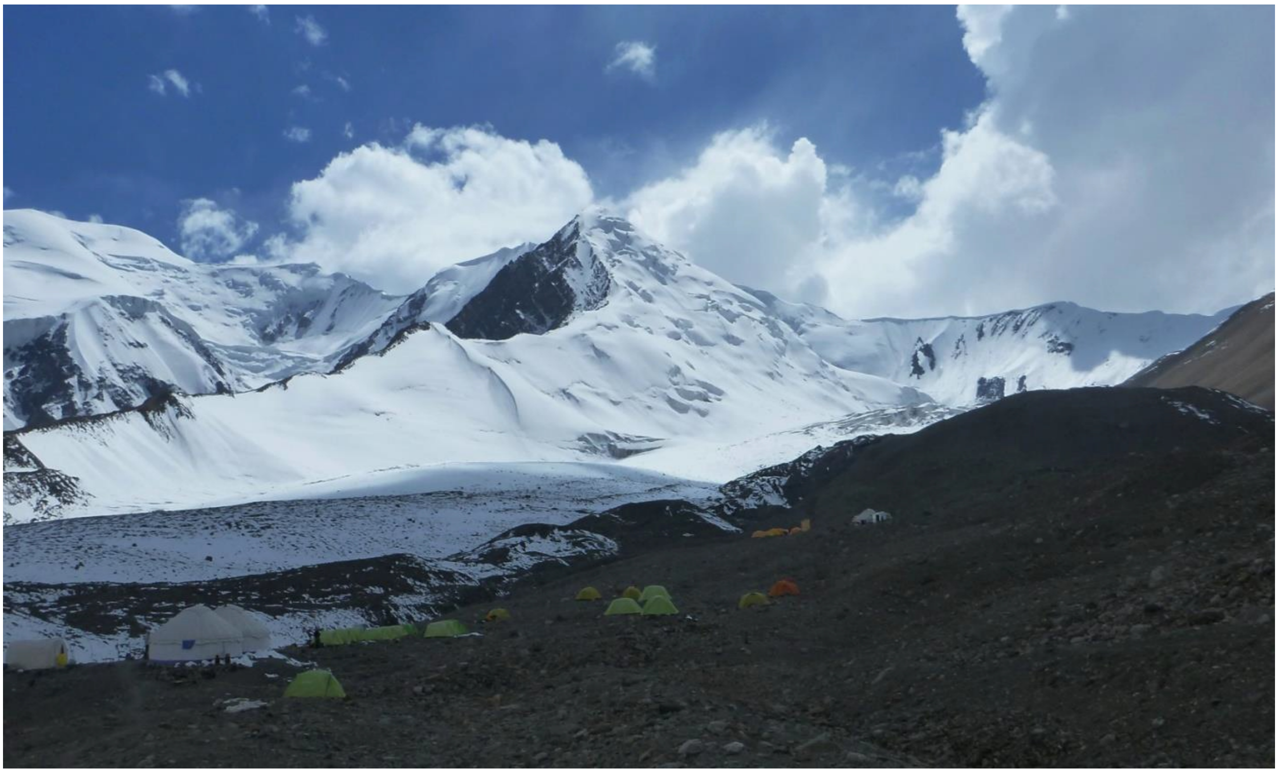
There are a number of other summits located close to ABC in addition to the mountains mentioned above. As no information has been uncovered about any prior ascents of these summits they are considered to be virgin peaks such as the impressive 5342 m Peak.

.

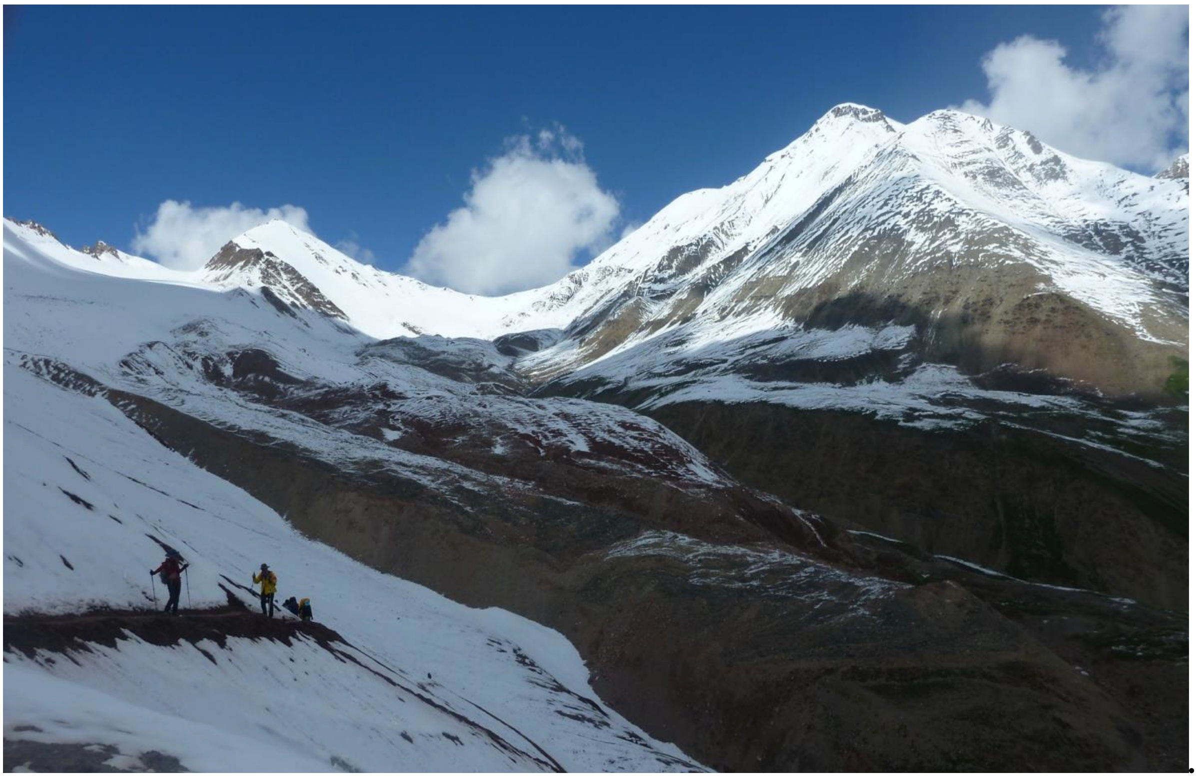
Petrovskogo Peak (Left), Lagernaya Peak (right), photo from Achiktash BC



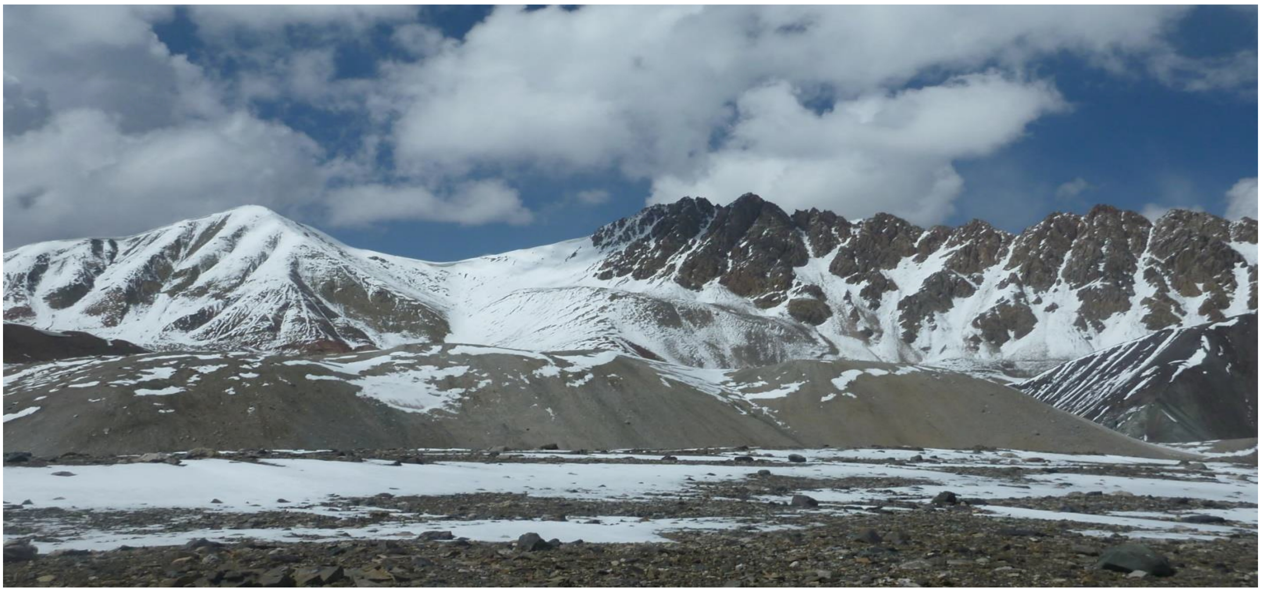
Yujina (rear) and Domashniy (front) peaks, Left is the October pass



Peak 5342 and behind 30-Letiya-Uzbekskoy SSR Peak



Peaks 4803 (right, both summits), Peak 4750 (left), Razvedyvatelniy pass (center), South- Razvedyvatelniy Left, and Detrictic Rock Towers on the extreme Left, flat glacier just below



Peak 4695 (left), and Detritic Rock Towers (right)

The standard Lenin Peak climbing programme includes an ascent to the summit of Razdelnaya (6148m), which is located on the way to the top, during the second acclimatization process. This has a certain logic: it enables an exploration of the ascent route and also facilitates the carrying of the necessary equipment and supplies required for the summit bid during the acclimatization programme. Alternatively, there is the possibility to complete the second phase of acclimatization by undertaking an ascent of XIX Parts'ezda Peak, 5920m (19th Party conference) and staying for one night on the top, as is typically done when climbing Razdelnaya Peak.

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19-th Parts'ezda KPSS Peak (19th Communist Party Conference)

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North-West Ridgeof 19-th Parts'ezda KPSS Peak (19th Communist Party Conference)

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West wall of XIX Parts’ezda Peak

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Ridge before the top of XIX Parts’ezda Peak

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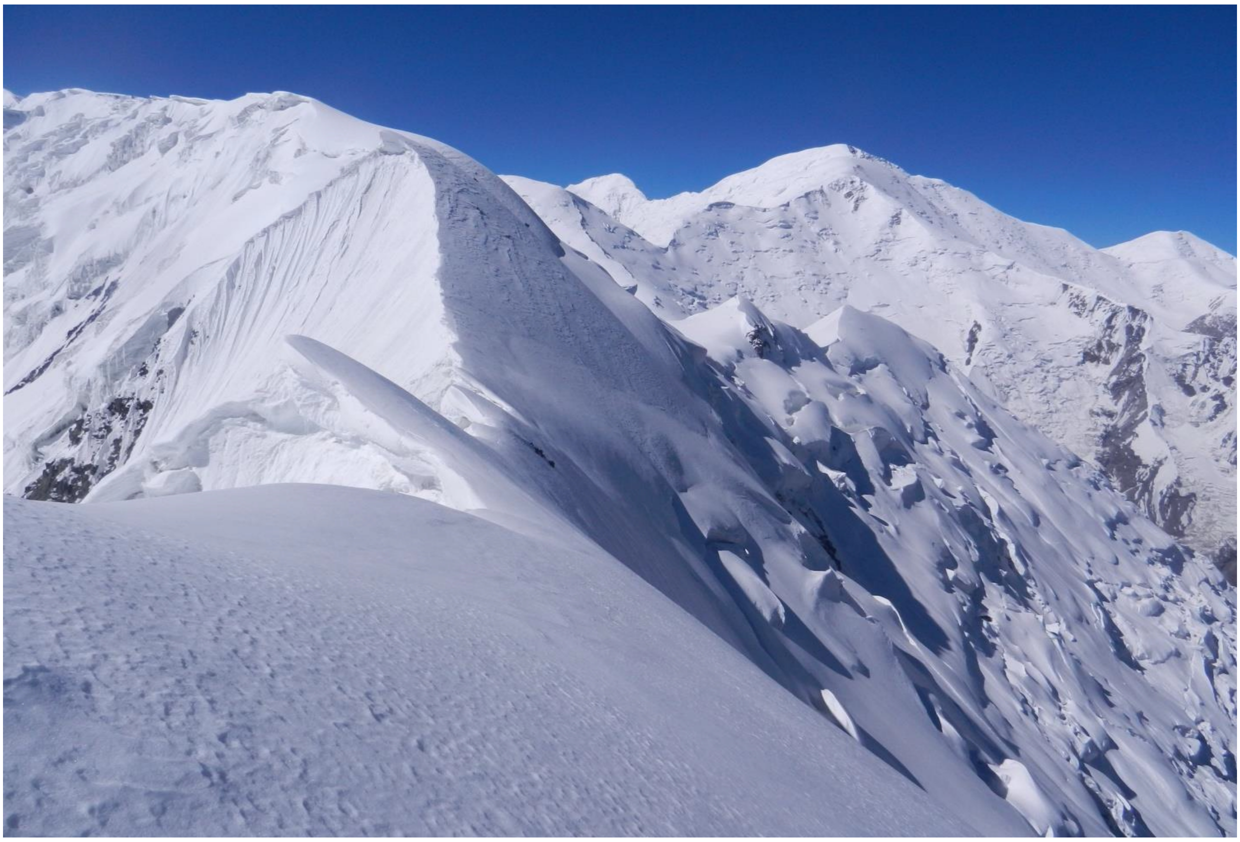
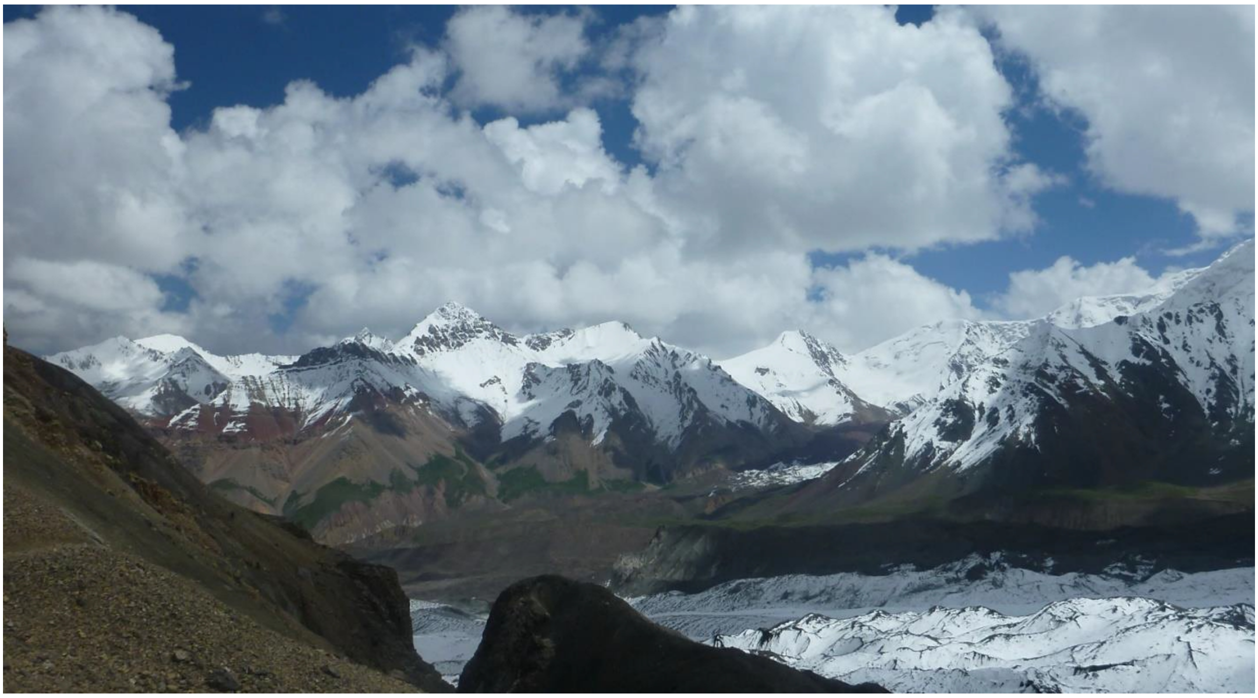
Camp on the top of XIX Parts'ezda Peak

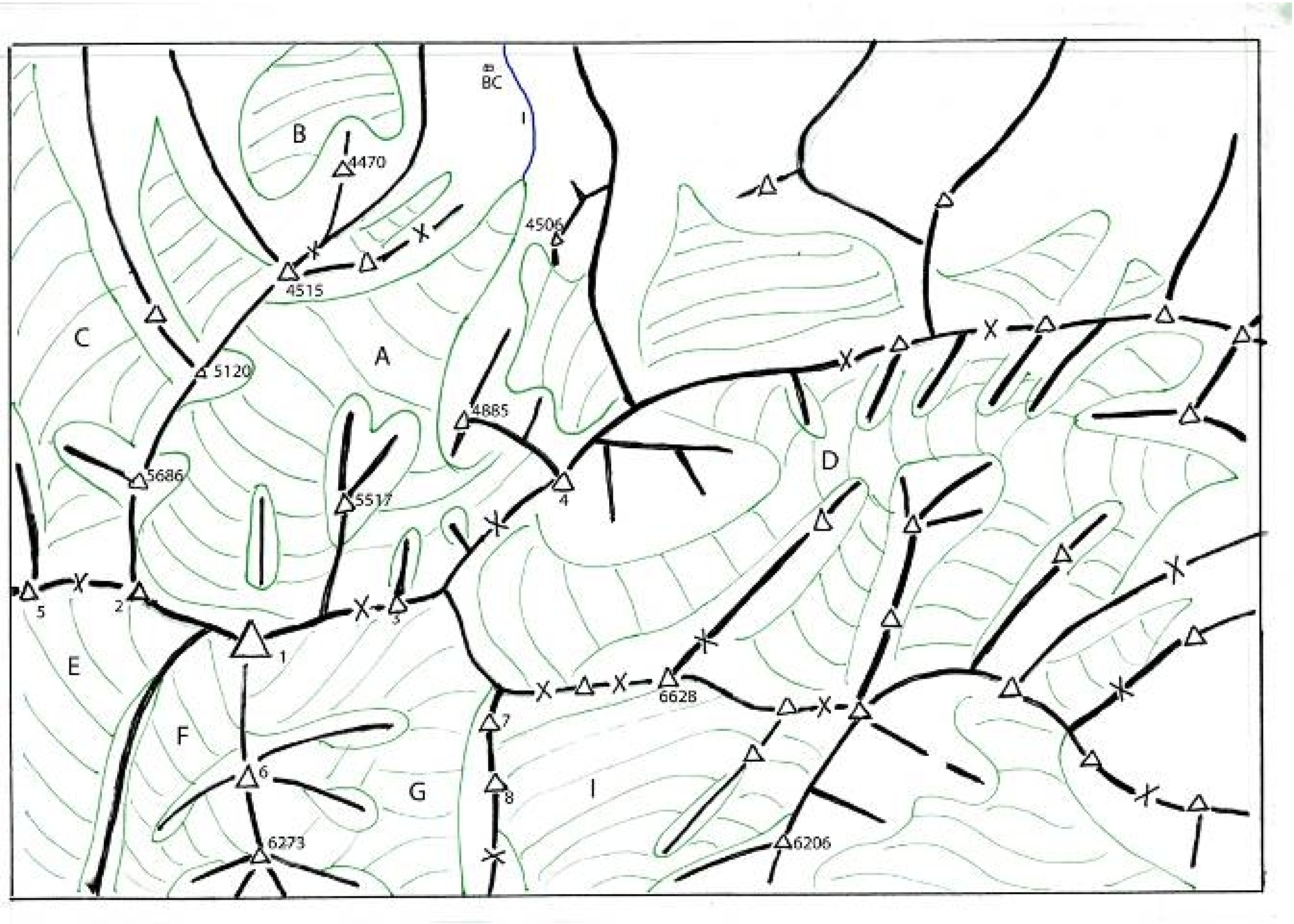


South ridge of XIX Parts'ezda Peak. Lenin and Dzerzhinskogo peaks are located from the right side



Virgin peaks of E side of Achiktash Valley, Peak of 900th anniversary of Minsk city is located in the centre of the picture, ITMO University Peak on the extreme Left

Foothills of the Achik-Tash range (opposite the Lenin Glacier river) gives also good opportunities of ascent. One of the mains summits is the ITMO University Peak (around 4724). Almost four sides peaks of the ITMO can be climbed as regular walk (around 4100). To cross the Lenin Glacier River, just go 2 km North of Lenin Peak Base Camp, down the river. There is a good bridge for Livestock. ITMO peak is a two day ascent, the over are a one day walk. There are also possibly some virgin peaks in excess of 4000m, for a one day ascent. One has to check signs of a trail and rocks over the top wether you'll be the first ascensionist !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6628
F
7
G
6
8
I
6273
6206

Orographic map of Achiktash region (Peak Lenin), Zaalayskiy range

Peaks	**Rivers**	**Camps**
1.Lenin Peak, 7134 2.Razdelnaia, 6148 3.Krylenko, 6788 4.19SiezdKPSS, 5920 5.Dzerzhinskogo, 6717 6.Moskva-Peking (Marshaal Jukov), 6842 7.Edinstva, 6673 8.Oktiabrskiy, 6780	I.Achikstash **Glaciers** A.Lenina B.Tash-Kunghey C.Kaman D.Korzhenevskogo E.Dzerzhinskogo F.Saukdara Malaia G.Saukdara Bolsha H.Oktiabrskiy	B.C. Base camp Achiktash

B.1.2) The crest of Zaalayskiy, east of the valley Achik-Tash

Part of the Zaalayskiy (Trans-Alay) range, east of the Peak Lenin until the Chinese border, is scantily explored before 2000. In recent years even one can still found some exploratory expeditions taking place in this region.

During the Soviet time the area wasn't very popular because of its well-known neighbors peaks Lenin (7134 m) and Communism (7495 m). After perestroika the region starts to draw more attention by mountaineers.

In 1990, British climbers tried to reach the highest peak of the ridge (Peak Kurumdy 6613 m) for 40 days, but without success. Later in 2004, Russian and Uzbek shipments suffered the same setback on the summit. Meanwhile in 2001, Vitaliy Akimov, Alexander Gubayev, Mikhail Mikhailov, and Oleg Turayev by the north spur and east ridge, reached the highest summit of Kurumdy I (6613 m). Despite previous reports that the mountain was first climbed in 1932 from the south by Nikolay Krylenko's expedition, it now seems most likely they reached the summit of 6,154m Kurumdy Southwest II by the south side (current Tajikistan). So the top of Kurumdy was seen as virgin until 2001.

B.1.2.1) West of the Kyzart Pass

West of Kyzart pass is occupied by the Korzhenevskiy glacier and Dzanajdartaka river, area of which has not been visited for the last 40 years before new eplorations began on 1999. In 1963, Kyrgyz climbers from Osh region organized a high-altitude expedition in the area under the direction of V. Freyfeld. They climbed on this occasion the Korzhenevskogo peaks (6.008 m), Kyzyl-Agyn (6.679 m) and the traverse between the following peaks: VMF (Voenno Morskogo Flota 5842) Korzhenevskogo, Belezkogo (6075), Simanovicha (5798). The story continues with the US-Soviet trade in 1974 between the Soviet Sports Federation and the American Alpine Club, an invitation to the USSR International Pamir Camp for an ascent of the north face of Peak of the "19th Congress party "and Lenin Peak. It was a nineteen-member expedition, led by Pete Schoening.

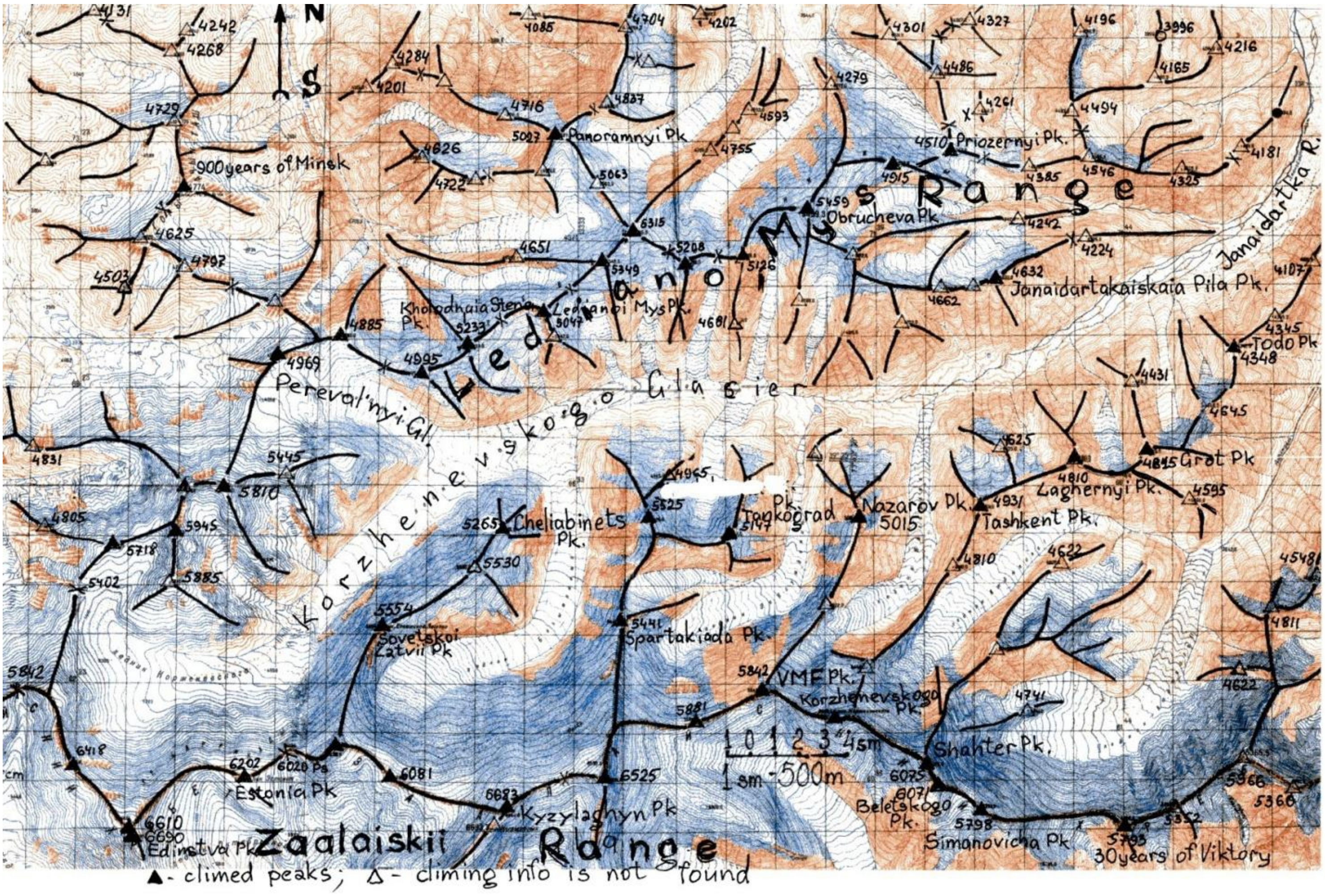
In the same valley in 1999 a British expedition from the University of Cambridge led by James Lasseter climbed several peaks whose northern edge of the Peak Nazarova (5015), the southern edge of the Peak 5525, the South Summit (5845) of Peak "19th Party Congress" (5945), the Peak Korzhenevskogo (6.008 m) and the ridge east of Lenin Peak and Peak 6624 on the back of the Trans-Alay ridge.

In 2005 an expedition of two Slovak J. Pala and Mr Čadík try to performs ski ascents in summer of a few peaks on the Dzanajdartaka valley and Nazarova glacier. Recognition peaks had been done like Peak Todo 4360 and Northern slopes on the glacier Nazarova up to 5000 m.

In spite of increasing tourist visit and a fairly complete exploration of the summits on the Trans-Alay ridge between Lenin Peak and the Kyzyl-Art Pass, the area of the lateral spurs of the North slope is still relatively small. These are the summits located on the ridges of Ledyanov Mys and Achik-Tash (Pic of the 19th Party Congress).

Korzhenevsky Glacier area in Trans-Alay Range (view from the Alay Valley)

Approach to the area of Korzhenevsky Glacier goes from Bordoba Village on the east side. This can be reached by the highway connecting Sarytash Village and the Kyzart Pass. The approach to the summits of northern slope of Ledyanoy Mys Range is accessible from Sarymogol Village via the bridge on the Kyzylsuu River or from the side of the Sarytash – Kyzart highway by cross country vehicle.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4503
4626
4722
5027
Panoramnyi Pk
5063
6315
4651
5349
5208
5126
Kholodnaia Stena Pk.
5233
Ledianoi Mys Pk.
5047
4885
4969
4995
4681
4593
4755
4279
4301
4327
4486
4261
4510
Priozernyi Pk.
4915
5459
Obrucheva Pk
4242
4224
4632
4662
Janaidartakaiskaia Pila Pk.
4196
3996
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4181
Janaidartka R.
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Todo Pk
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Ledianoi Mys Range
Pereval'nyi Gl.
Korzhenevskogo Glacier
4831
5445
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5885
5402
5265
Cheliabinets Pk.
5530
5554
Sovetskoi Latvii Pk
4965
5525
Pk. Tonkograd
5147
Nazarov Pk.
5015
4625
4810
Laghernyi Pk.
4845
Grot Pk
4595
4931
Tashkent Pk.
4810
4622
4548
4811
5441
Spartakiada Pk.
5842
VMF Pk.
Korzhenevskogo Pk.
5881
4741
4622
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1 sm - 500m
Shahter Pk.
6075
6071
Beletskogo Pk.
5798
Simanovicha Pk
5793
30 years of Viktory
5352
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5366
5842
6418
6202
6020
Estonia Pk
6081
6525
6683
Kyzylaghyn Pk
6610
6690
Edinstva Pk
Zaalaiskii Range
▲- climed peaks; Δ- climing info is not found

Korzhenevsky Glacier area map

B.1.2.2) East of the Kyzart Pass

East part of Zaalay Range, massive Kurumdy Peak. Photo Jason Sheldrake

The eastern part of the Zaalayskiy range to the east of Kyzart pass isn’t well explored except the region of Kurumdy peak (6.613 m), until recent years. During the summer of 2000, the group of climbers led by Alexander Novik (Moscow) climbed for the first time Zarya Vostoka Peak (6,349 m, bordering Kyrgyzstan, China and Tajikistan) completing its full traverse. A first ascent of Peak Chorku (6283) was also carried out during this expedition. During the fall of 2005, a group of Kyrgyz climbers under the leadership of Alexander Gubaev also reached the Kurumdy peak (6.613 m).

The rest of the eastern range is gradually explored during the years 1999-2016 period when several expeditions exploit the tremendous potential of the sector. In the second main valley of the eastern Trans-Alay, that of the Nura River is the foundation for ascents of the main peaks, Zarya Vostoka and Kurumdy.

In 1999 a Scottish expedition led by Paul Deegan performs climbing ten peaks from either side of the valley glacier Kurumdy (Kyzyl-Suu river): Anatoli Peak, 4985m, 4892m peak, Peak Twig (4852m), Peak Svyetliy (or Shining Peak), 4789m and Molly Peak, 4800m. In 2000 Zarya Vostoka Peak (6349) was climbed by a group of tourists under the leadership of Alexander Novik (Moscow). Russian and Uzbek expeditions made unsuccessful attempts to climb Kurumdy Peak in 2004. This highest point of the eastern part of the Zaalay Range was successfully climbed in 2005 by Kyrgyz climbers led by A. Gubaev. In 2007 a team of a dozen Spanish climbers realized in the upper basin of Kyzyl-Suu (Kurumdy glacier) climbing the 5155m Peak Ekishak on the foothills of the Peak Golova Orla 5441m. They try climbing the 5262 summit in the North East of Peak Gubaev 5368 (or Peak Tarka) and reach the 4812 elevation they call Aguja Eiger (probably 4890 on the map). They complete the journey by climbing the Peak 4789 and Shining Molly Peak 4748. In 2008, the expedition of Moscow climbers under the direction of A. Lebedev and Dmitry Shapovalov, realizes the ascent of Peak Alexander Gubaev 5368 (named in honor), on the North lateral ridge a few kilometers from Peak Zarya Vostoka. This same Alexander Gubaev previously realized crossing Kurumdy Sharqui I, II, III (6235, 6192, 6086) in 2004. In 2008, a Russian team led by Alexander Kelyn performs in a wide east-west traverse, the ascent of Peak Beliy 5021 m in the Nura valley, at the eastern end of the Sino-Kyrgyz border, the traverse 5505-5917 Peaks (not yet appointed names to this date) from Kichkesu pass between the valleys of glaciers right and left Kichkesu, finishing the high altitude trip on the Pogranichnikov and Arkhar passes. In 2009 a Moscow club realizes an Alpine climbing trekking passes between the valleys of Kyzyl-suu-Kurumdy and Nura. In September 2009 an ascent of Peak Otchaylo in 5797-5820 is carried out by the Alpine Club of Hanover (not knowing the real name of the summit, they renamed it Peak Leibniz). Immediately to the east of

Kyzyl-Art Pass is the Kichkesu valley where goes a small Russian expedition led by Yury Koshelenko in July 2010. The climbers realize two climbs on Left and Right of Kichkesu glaciers, the Peaks Meretskogo 4800 and Ying-Yang (4714 or 4939). In 2013, A. Lebedev and his team is back and makes a crossing between the valleys of Nura and Kicheksu. They also managed to combine a new route of ascent on the Peak 5985 in the East of Peak Zarya-Vostoka which it turns out to be of the altitude 6022 or the first 6000 East Trans-Alay. In 2014 a Franco-Russian team, Henry Bizot and his russian guide Nikolay Totmyanin realizes the ascent of Peak Veronika and Anna (5123 on maps and 5200 on GPS) immediately south of the Peak Pogranichnikov (5437) in the glacial basin of Leviy-Kichkesu (left). In 2015 a German expedition of Markus Gschwendt realizes the complete crossing of all the summits of the crest of Kurumdy since Kurumdy East II (Peak Cathy, 6259) to Kurumdy West II (Peak Chorku, 6283 m).

Since 2015 the ISM (International School of Mountaineering) also organizes expeditions of exploration in collaboration with ITMC Tien-Shan. Under the direction of Pat Littlejohn, Adrian Nelhams and supervision of Vladimir Komissarov, 11 virgin peaks have been climbed in September 2015 in the valleys of Kichkesu and a new exploratory session just ended in September 2016 in the Kurumdy Valley (Kyzyl-Suu River).

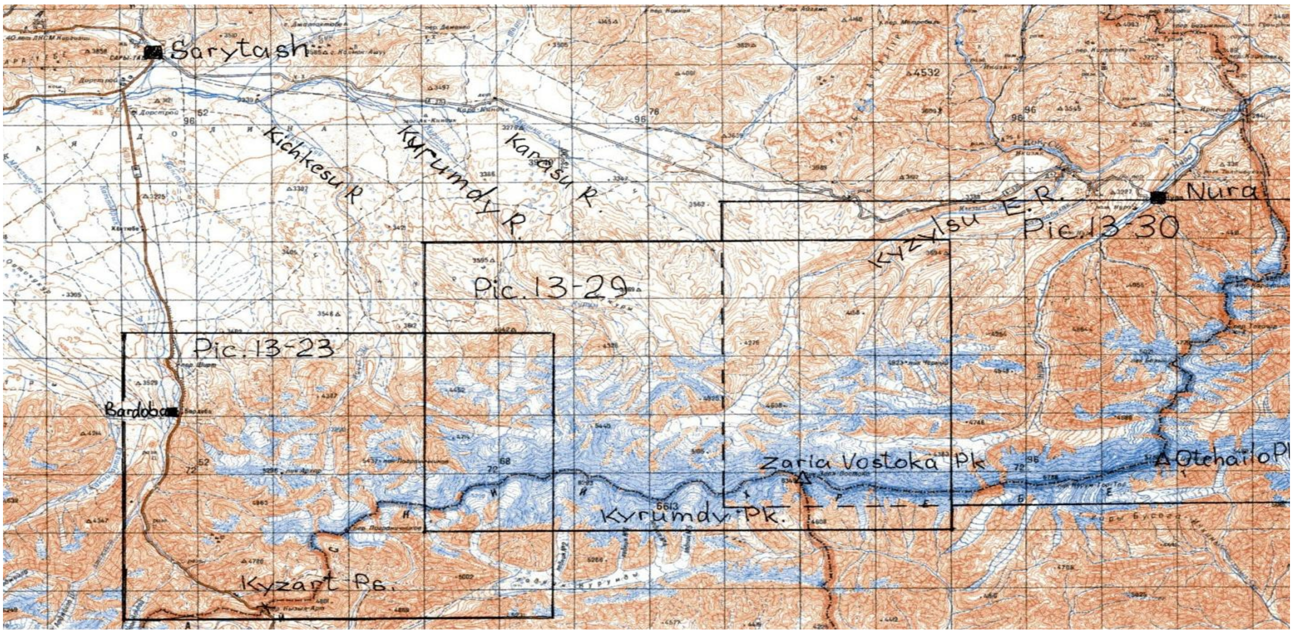
One can now assume that all the 6000 Trans-Alay East have been climbed, but there is an abundance of new icy roiutes, including a significant number of virgin peaks between 4000-6000 meters high including likely a dozen of 5000m.

Access to the area

Access to the eastern part of the range is facilitated by the proximity of the Alay valley provided in good road (from Osh-Taldyk pass and Sary-Tash). Beyond the village of Sary-Tash destinations to the four main valleys by the Kyzyl-Art pass, the border post of Irkhestam and side branches of the tracks leading to the base camps in general near 3700 altitude. These are often accessible by 4x4 vehicule with few road ability. September is a good time because the rivers are on their minimum flow at the time.

The region is in the border area and special permit is required. The controls in the vicinity of border posts are inevitable.

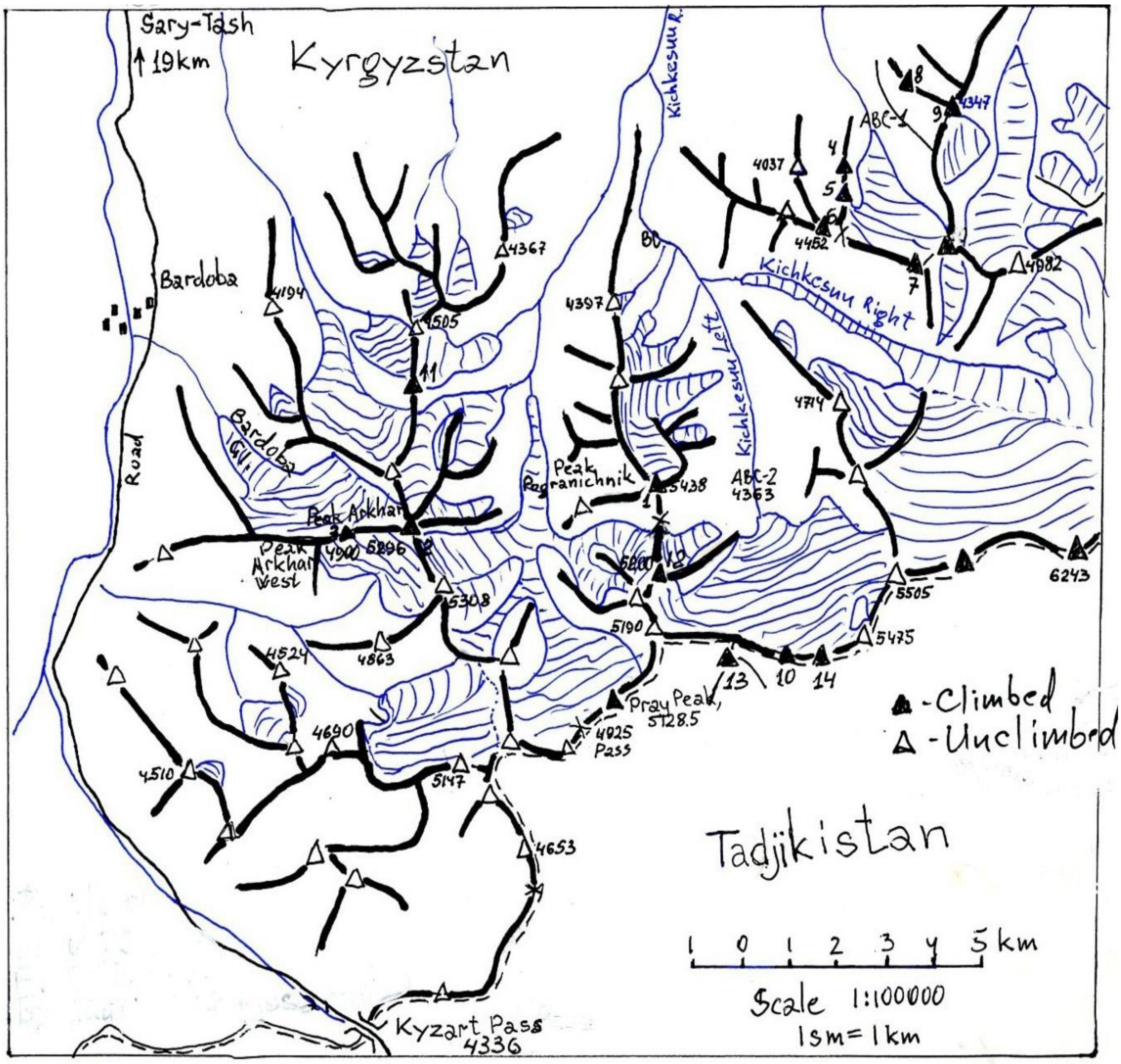
Cartography. Maps 1/50,000 j43-15-1,2,3 and 4; j43-16-1,2,3 and 4; 1/100,000 j43-15, j43-16.



Overview map of Eastern Zaalay Range

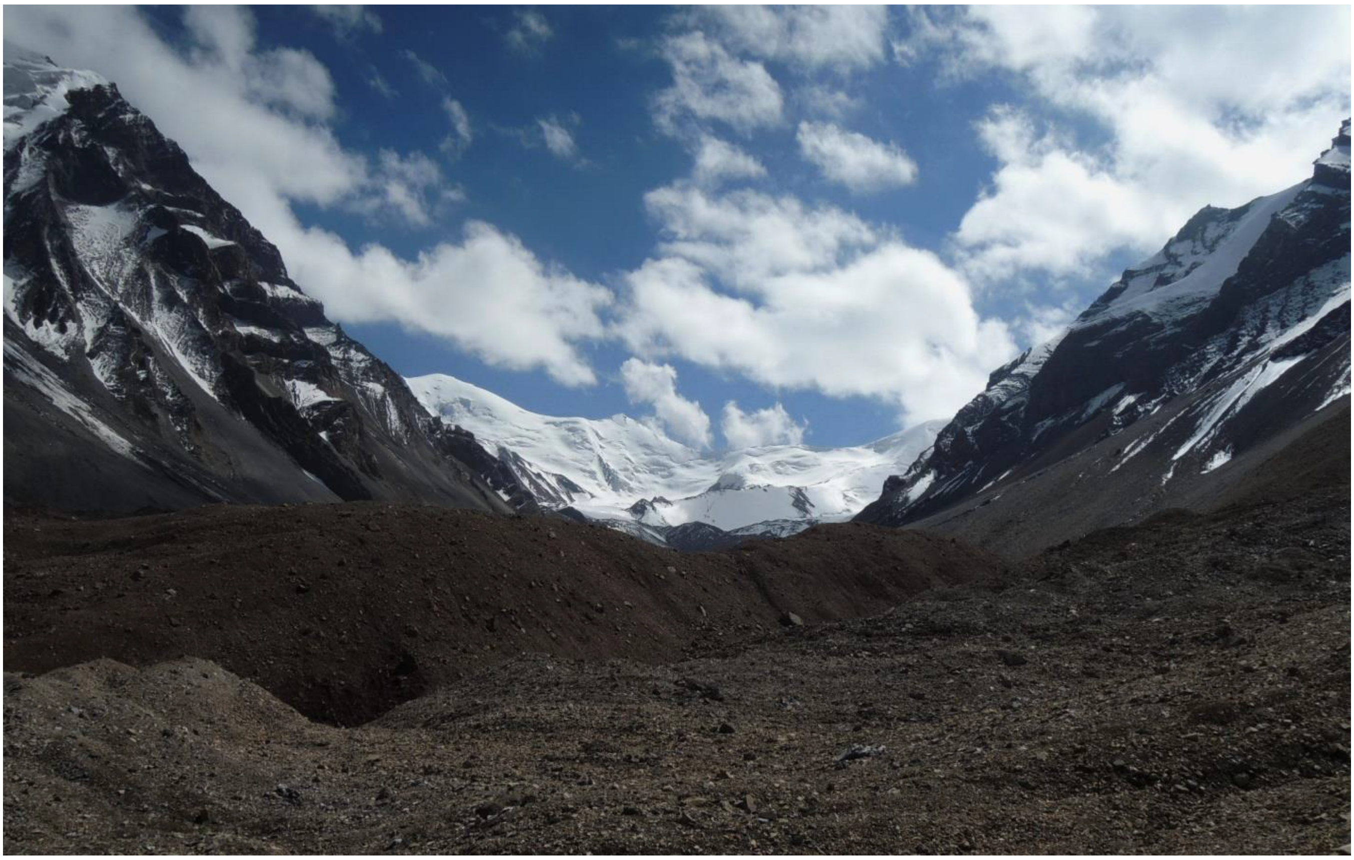
Impressive view of Kurumdy Peak 6613 m

Zaria Vostoka Peak, 6349 m


Sary-Tash
↑19km
Kyrgyzstan
Kichkesuu R.
ABC-1
8
9
4347
4037
4
5
6
4452
7
4982
Kichkesuu Right
Kichkesuu Left
BC
4367
Bardoba
4194
4505
11
4397
Bardoba Gl.
Road
4714
Peak Pogranichnik
5438
1
ABC-2
4363
Peak Arkhar
3
2
Peak Arkhar West
4900
5296
5308
5400
15
5190
5505
6243
5475
13
10
14
4524
4863
Pray Peak, 5128.5
4925 Pass
4690
4510
5147
4653
▲ -Climbed
△ -Unclimbed
Tadjikistan
1 0 1 2 3 4 5 km
Scale 1:100000
1sm=1km
Kyzart Pass
4336

Orographic Map of Kicheksu River basin

Pogranichnik Peak, SE side

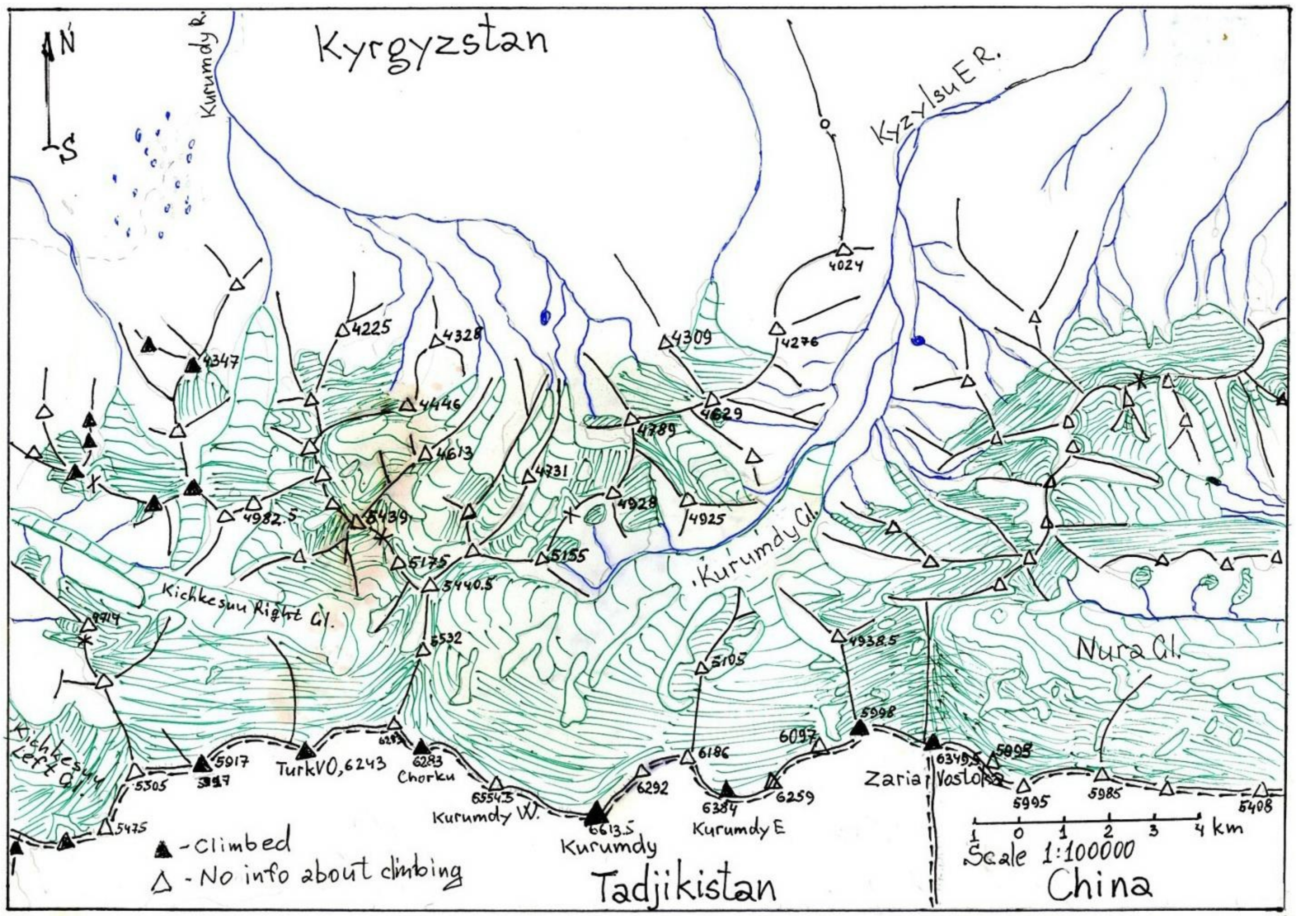


Left-Kichkesu Glacier

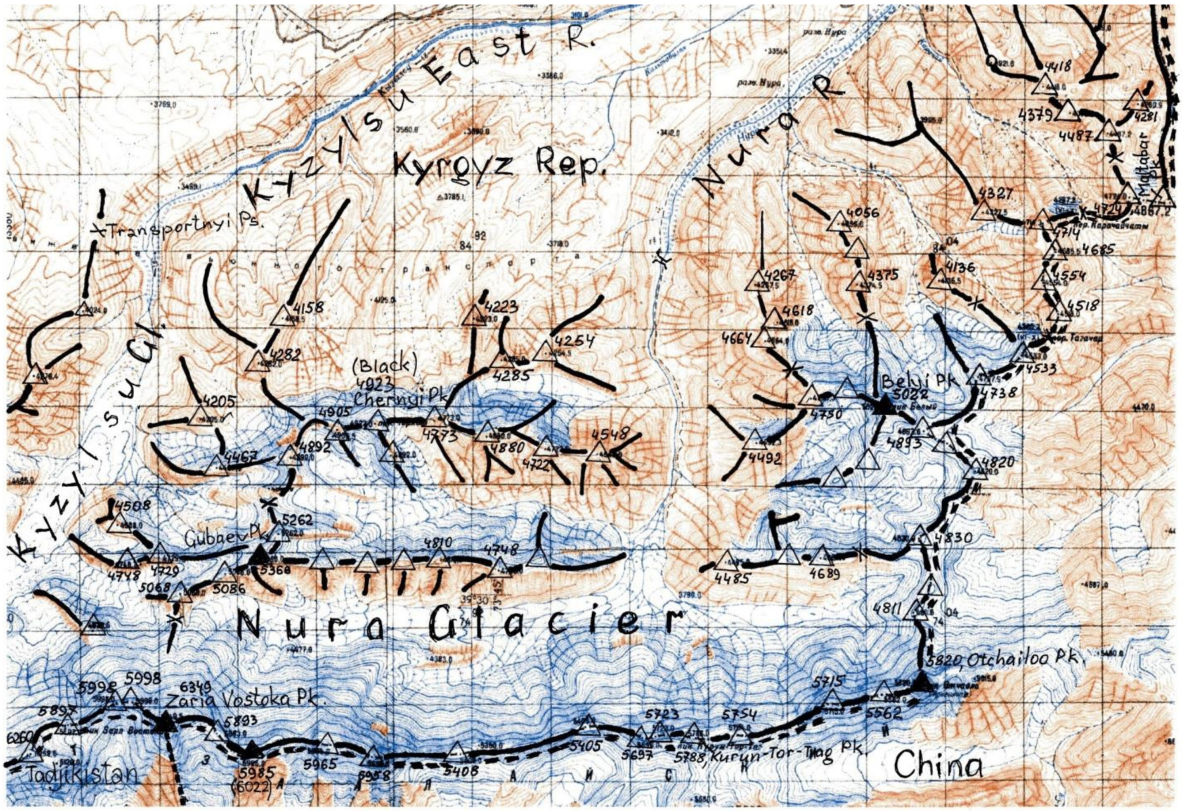
Kichkesu River crossing

Cross country vehicle – transport for Zaalay expeditions. Driving along bottom of Kichkesu River to BC point

Herd of yaks on Kashkasu River upper reache. East Zaalay


N
S
Kurumdy R.
Kyrgyzstan
Kyzylsu E R.
4024
4225
4328
4347
4309
4276
4446
4629
4789
4613
4731
4928
4925
4982.5
5439
5175
5155
3440.5
Kurumdy Gl.
Kichkesuu Right Gl.
4714
5532
5105
4938.5
Nura Gl.
Kichkesuu Left Gl.
5305
5917
5927
TurkVO, 6243
6283
Chorku
6186
6097
5998
6349.5
Zaria Vostoka
5995
5985
5408
5475
6554.3
Kurumdy W.
6613.5
Kurumdy
6292
6384
Kurumdy E
6259
- Climbed
- No info about climbing
Tadjikistan
China
1 0 1 2 3 4 km
Scale 1:100000

Orographic scheme of Kurumdy and Eastern Kyzylsuu Rivers basins


Kyzylsu East R.
Kyrgyz Rep.
Nura R.
Transportnyi Ps.
Kyzylsu Gl.
4158
4282
4223
4254
4285
(Black) 4923 Chernyi Pk.
4205
4905
4773
4880
4722
4548
4467
4892
4056
4267
4375
4136
4418
4379
4487
4281
Maltabar Pk.
4327
4720
4887.2
4714
4685
4554
4518
4618
4664
4730
Belyi Pk. 5022
4893
4533
4738
4492
4820
4508
5262
Gubaev Pk.
4810
4748
4748
4729
5068
5086
5368
4485
4689
4830
4811
Nura Glacier
5820 Otchailoo Pk.
5998
5998
6349
Zaria Vostoka Pk.
6060
5893
5893
5985 (6022)
5965
5958
5408
5405
5723
5687
5788
5754
Kurun-Tor-Tmag Pk.
5715
5562
Tadjikistan
China

Orographic scheme of Nura River basin

.

Transportny pass, view from 4309 peak

.

Way along The high-water bed of Nura River

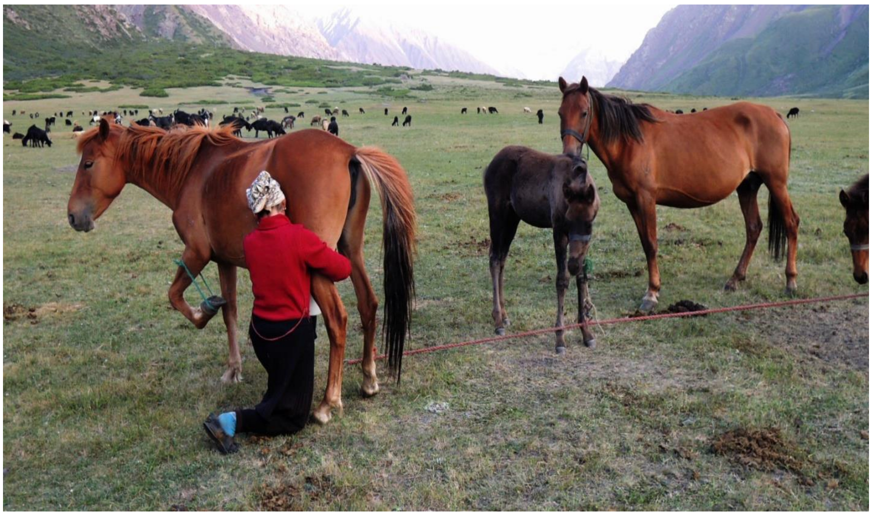
Bridge across Nura River

East outermost part (Nura) of Zaalay Range

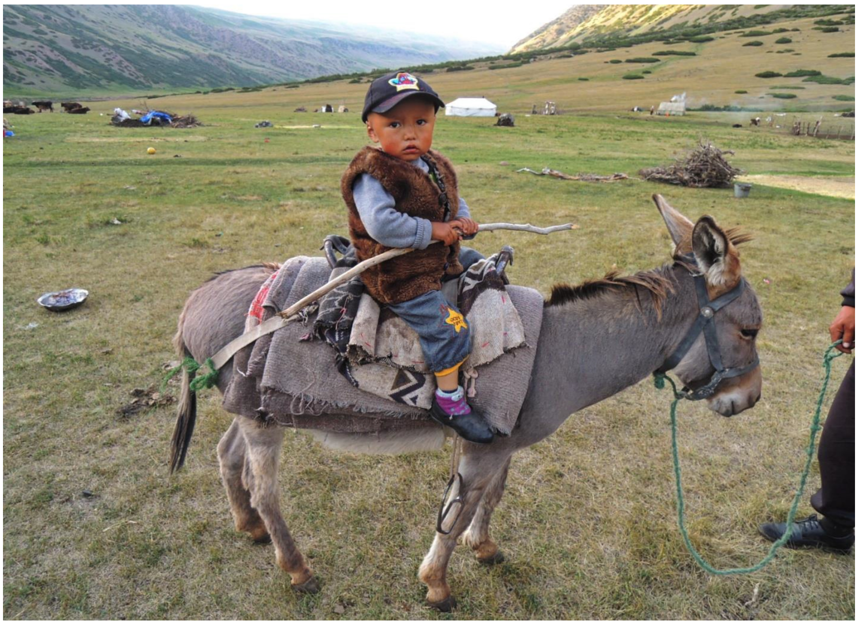
In front is a North virgin spur of Zaalay Range

Paradise of East part of Zaalay Range

Nura River canyon



Horse milk at summer Nura pastures



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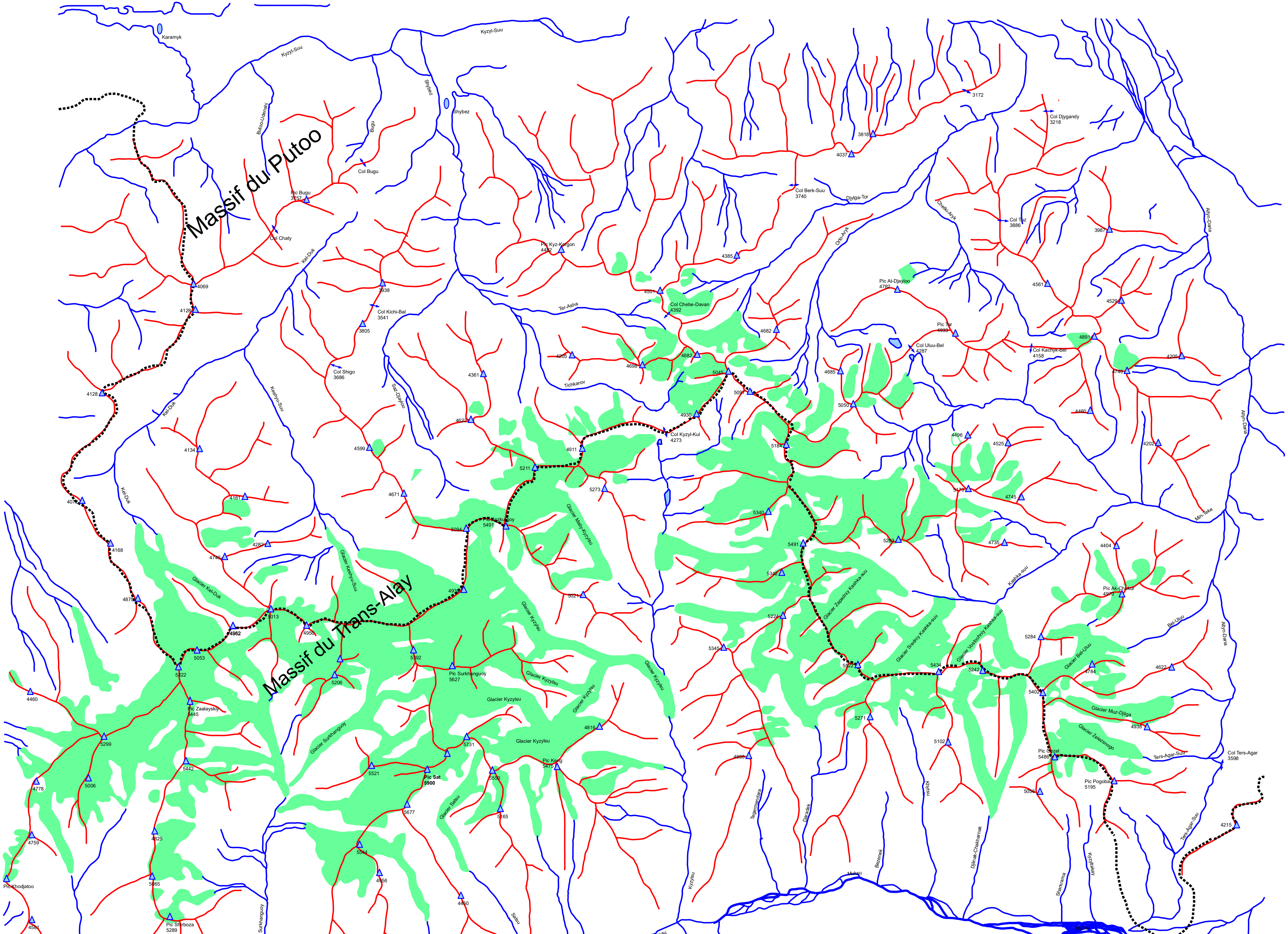
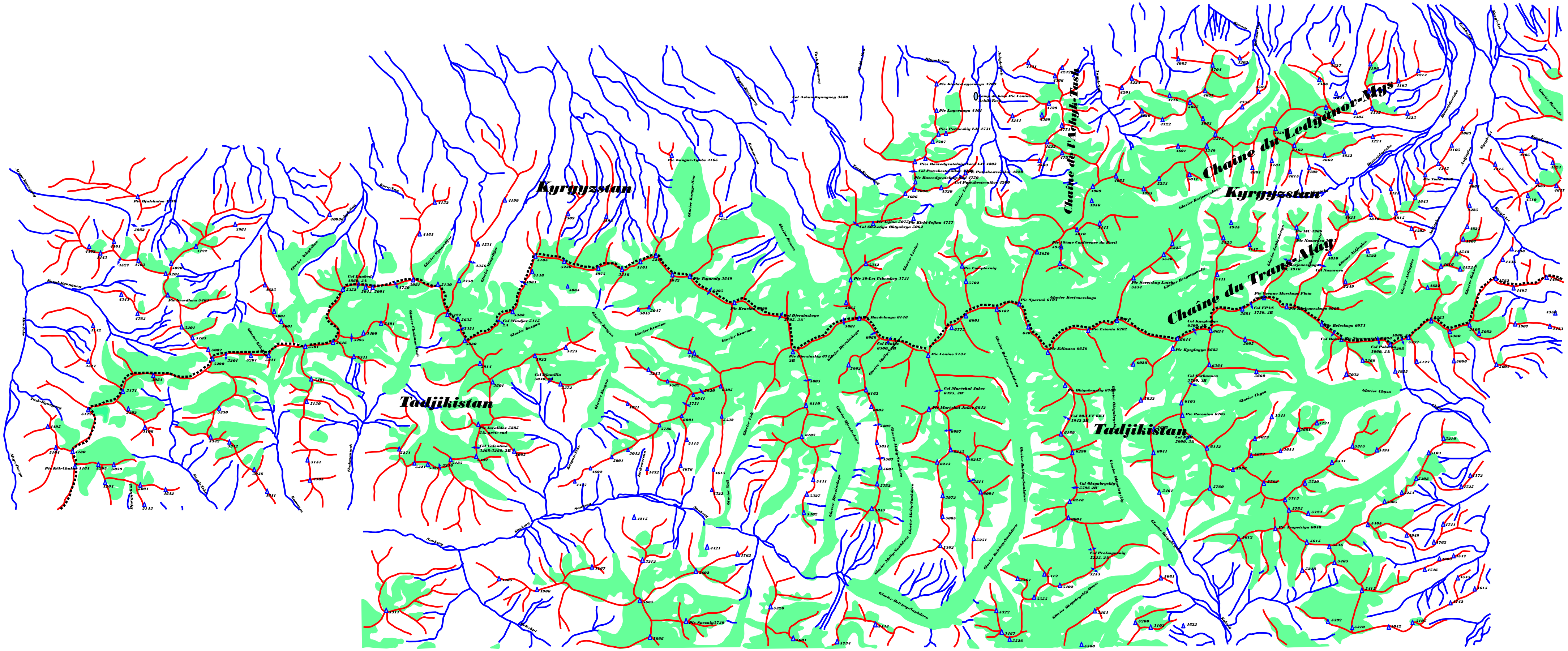
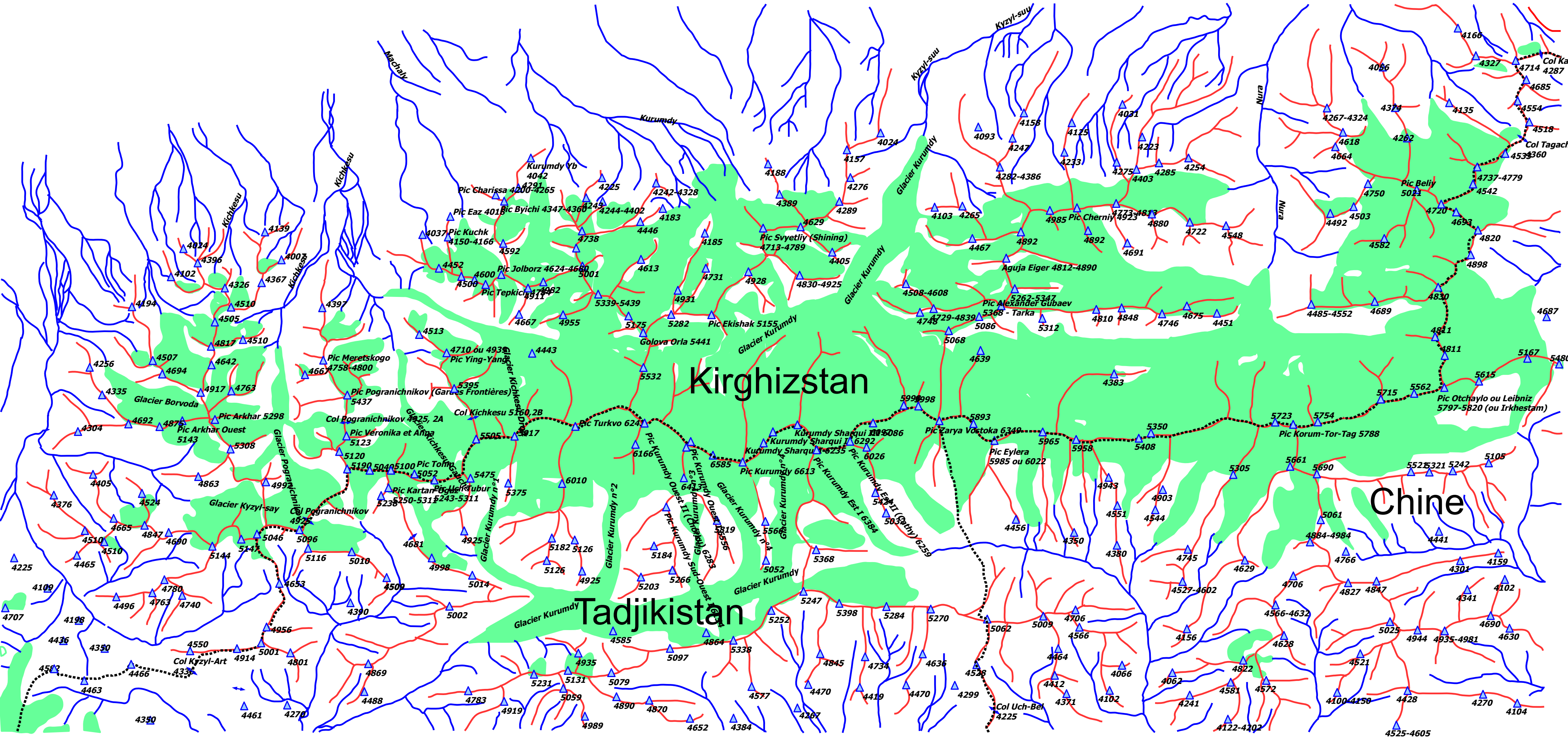
Kyrgyz young cowboy of summer Nura pastures


Karamyk
Kyzyl-Suu
Kyzyl-Suu
Shybez
Shybez
Butoo-Udenshi
Bugu
Massif du Putoo
Col Bugu
Pic Bugu
3757
Col Chaty
Kel-Duk
4069
4128
3938
Col Kichi-Bal
3541
3805
Col Shigo
3686
Keshyu-Suu
Saz-Djayloo
4128
Kel-Duk
4134
4361
4622
4599
4671
4161
4072
Kel-Duk
4168
4282
4740
Pic Kyz-Korgon
4482
4501
Col Chebe-Davan
4392
Ter-Asha
4205
4698
4882
Tichkarov
5045
5097
4930
Col Kyzyl-Kul
4273
4911
5211
5273
Pic Kozkulgoy
5491
5094
Glacier Maliy-Kyzylsu
3172
3818
4037
Col Berk-Suu
3740
Djylga-Tor
Col Djygandy
3218
Chetki-Aryk
Col Tuz
3886
3987
Altyn-Daria
Orto-Aryk
4385
Pic At-Djayloo
4782
4561
4529
4682
Pic Tar
4933
Col Uluu-Bel
4287
4685
5050
4891
Col Kachyk-Bel
4158
4740
4205
4460
4496
4525
4202
Altyn-Daria
5184
5173
4745
Min-Teke
5340
5293
4735
4404
Kashka-suu
5491
5342
Pic Ak-Chukur
4970
Glacier Zapadniy Kashka-suu
5224
Glacier Sredniy Kashka-suu
Glacier Vostochniy Kashka-suu
Bel-Uluu
Altyn-Daria
5284
Glacier Bel-Uluu
4784
4622
5345
5522
5434
5242
5402
Glacier Muz-Djilga
4938
5271
5102
Glacier Zelezsnogo
Ters-Agar-Suu
Col Ters-Agar
3598
4808
Pic Gezel
5486
Pic Pogoba
5195
5056
4215
Ters-Agar-Suu
Tegermendara
Daradek
Khytsu
Bezenek
Djilnak-Chakharnak
Sharkrama
Kyzyltakay
Muksu
Muksu
Muksu
Kyzylsu
4870
Glacier Kel-Duk
4962
5013
4950
5053
5322
Glacier Keshyu-Suu
Massif du Trans-Alay
4933
5021
Glacier Kyzylsu
5392
Pic Surkhanguoy
5627
5206
Glacier Kyzylsu
Glacier Kyzylsu
Glacier Kyzylsu
Glacier Kyzylsu
Glacier Kyzylsu
4460
Pic Zaalayskiy
5445
5299
Glacier Surkhanguoy
5731
4816
5442
4778
5006
5521
Pic Sat
5900
Pic Kenig
5475
5550
Glacier Satsu
5677
5165
4825
4759
5544
4956
Pic Khodjatoo
5065
4450
Pic Shirboza
5289
4581
Surkhanguoy
Satsu
Muksu
Kyzylsu

Annexe 1 - Figure 14b - Orographic Map of Trans-Alay – Western Area


Kyrgyzstan
Kyrgyzstan
Tadjikistan
Tadjikistan
Chaîne de l'Achyk-Tash
Chaîne du Ledganov-Mys
Chaîne du Trans-Alay
Pic Lénine 7134
Pic Spartak 6194
Pic Estonia 6202
Pic Edinstra 6656
Pic Kyzylagyn 6683
Col Kyzylagyn
6300, 3B
Col Gorbunova
5700, 3B
Pic Oktyabrskiy 6780
Pic Voenno Morskogo Flota
Col EPAS
5750, 3B
Pic Korjenevskogo 6008
Pic Beleskogo 6075
Col Pobieda
5060, 3A
Pic 19ème Conférence du Parti
5944
Pic Sovetskoy Latvier
5554
Glacier Korjenevskogo
Glacier Bezymyannyy
Pic MC 1986
Col Nazarova
Pic Todo 4360
Glacier Chysu

Appendix 1 figure 14c - Orographic Map of Trans-Alay – Central Area


Kirghizstan
Tadjikistan
Chine
Machaly
Kurumdy
Kyzyl-suu
Kichkesu
Nura
Glacier Kurumdy
Kurumdy Yb 4042 4291
Pic Charissa 4200-4265
Pic Eaz 4018
Pic Byichi 4347-4360
Pic Kuchk 4150-4166
Pic Jolborz 4624-4680
Pic Tepkichek
Pic Svyetliy (Shining) 4713-4789
Aguja Eiger 4812-4890
Pic Cherniy 4923
Pic Alexander Gubaev 5368 - Tarka
Pic Beliy 5011
Col Karagaychaty 4287
Col Tagachar 4360
Pic Ekishak 5155
Golova Orla 5441
Pic Meretskogo 4758-4800
Pic Ying-Yang
Glacier Kichkesu
Pic Pogranichnikov (Garde Frontières) 5437
Col Pogranichnikov 4925, 2A
Col Kichkesu 5160,2B
Pic Veronika et Anna 5123
Pic Turkvo 6240
Kurumdy Sharqui III 5086
Kurumdy Sharqui II 6292
Kurumdy Sharqui I 6235
Pic Kurumdy 6613
Pic Zarya Vostoka 6349
Pic Eylera 5985 ou 6022
Pic Korum-Tor-Tag 5788
Pic Otchaylo ou Leibniz 5797-5820 (ou Irkhestam)
Glacier Borvoda
Pic Arkhar 5298
Pic Arkhar Ouest 5143
Glacier Pogranichnik
Glacier Kyzyl-say
Col Pogranichnikov
Pic Tomp
Pic Kartan Pogo 5250-5311
Pic Ueik Tubur 5243-5311
Glacier Kurumdy n°1
Glacier Kurumdy n°2
Glacier Kurumdy n°4
Pic Kurumdy Ouest II (Chinois)
Pic Kurumdy Ouest
Pic Kurumdy Sud-Ouest
Pic Kurumdy Est I 6384
Pic Kurumdy Est II (Cathy) 6259
Col Kyzyl-Art 4336
Col Uch-Bel 4225

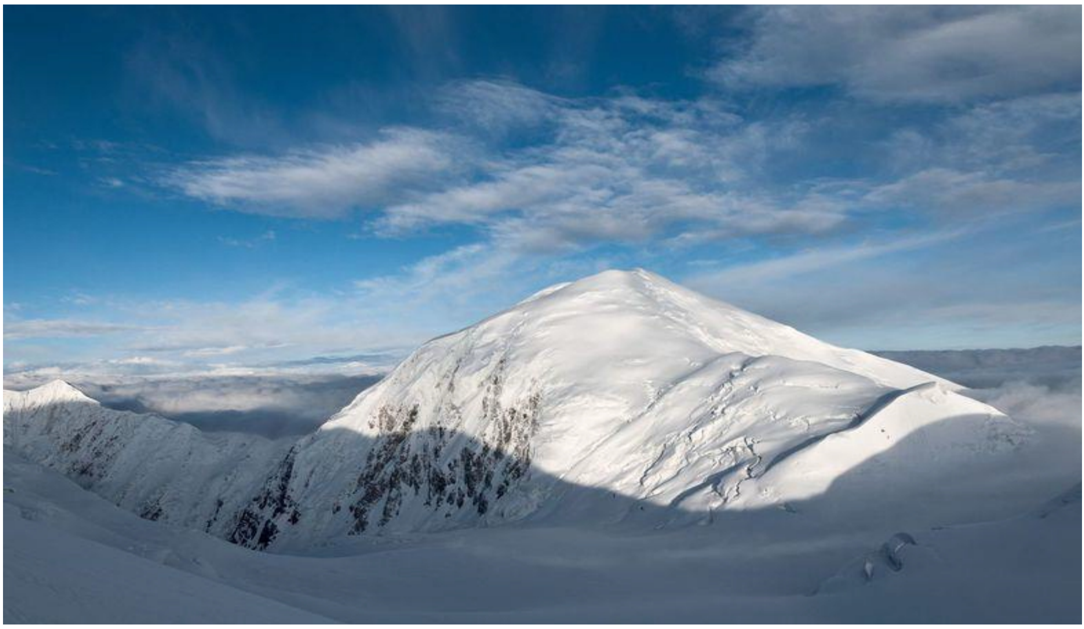
Appendix 1 figure 14d - Orographic Map of Trans-Alay – Eastern Area

B.1.3) West of Lenin Peak before Ters-Agar pass

West part of Zaalay Range

Koman-suu Valley

As indicated the entrance to the valley is accessible by trail, beyond the base camp to the front of the glacier Koman is within a short walking distance. As previously reported, the Koman glacier whose access to Lenin Peak by its eastern branch joining the upper edge between the Razdelnaya and "30 Let Uzbetskoy" where it joins the normal route of Lenin Peak from camp 3. The other accessible summit is Peak Djerzinskiy 6717 by Koman glacier and the North face inclined on average at 30°-35° towards the Djerzinskogo pass at 5700 (quotation 3A*), where one can establish Camp 2. The rest of the climb offers no particular difficulty.



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Dzerjinskogo Peak (6717), view from W ridge of Lenin Peak. Photo Pasha Chechia

Other valleys more to the west

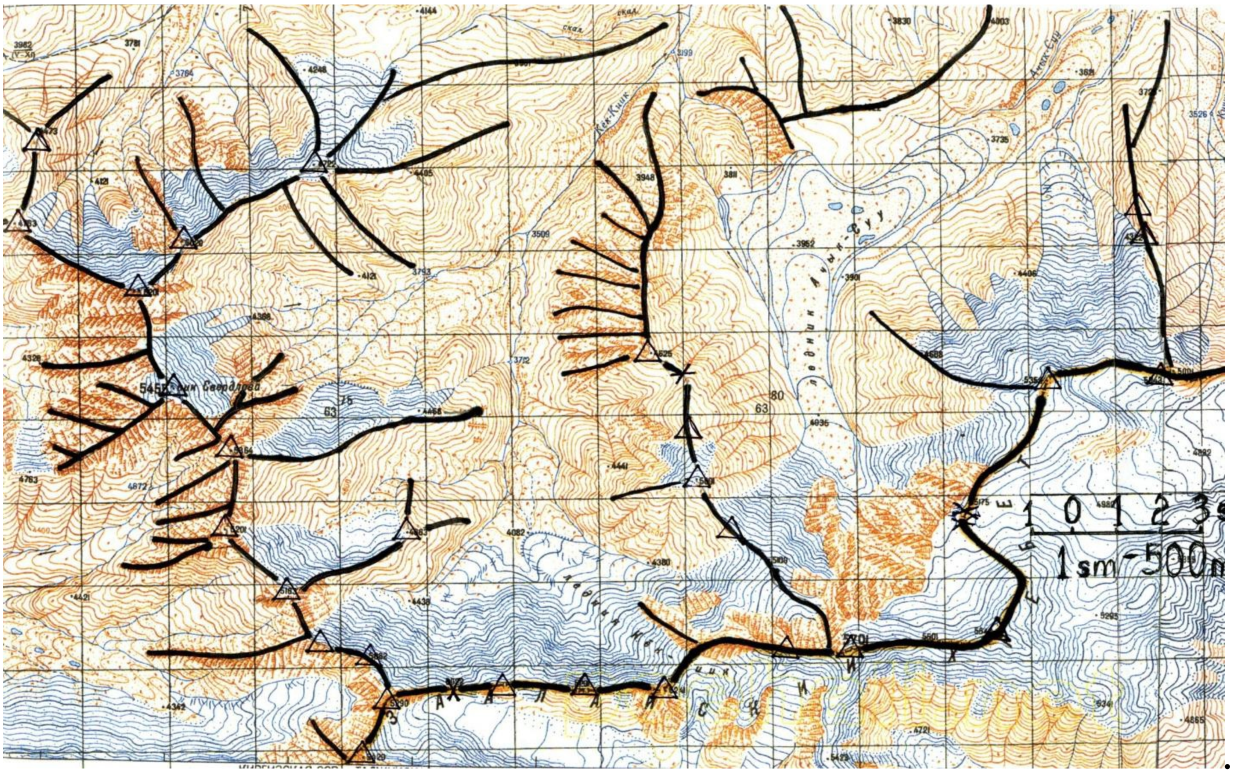
The area includes most western valleys of Kungyr-suu, Ming-Djar-Sinar-Djar, the Achyk-Suu, Këk-Kiyik and Altyn-Darya (Ters-Agar pass). All these valleys were visited but mainly in high-altitude trekking purpose by the mountain passes. For example Ukrainian Expedition 2006 rise in Achyk-Suu, Kara-Suu and descent on Glacier Chakmantash, ascent to the pass Valentina (South of Peak Invalidov 5885), pass Djamilia, Glacier Kuzgun, Kracina, Djerzinskiy Peak and pass, Glacier Koman, valley of Tash- Kungey-pass Razvedyvatelniy (4500 m) - Achik-Tash base camp. There are testimonies of trekking expeditions also in 2007 and before. The area is much less crowded than the Eastern Trans-Alay, as apart from the unique 6000 peak (6717 m Djerzinskiy on the main ridge), the other summits likely have never been climbed, more than thirty 5000 in this sector including up the Ters-Agar pass at West.

Access to the area

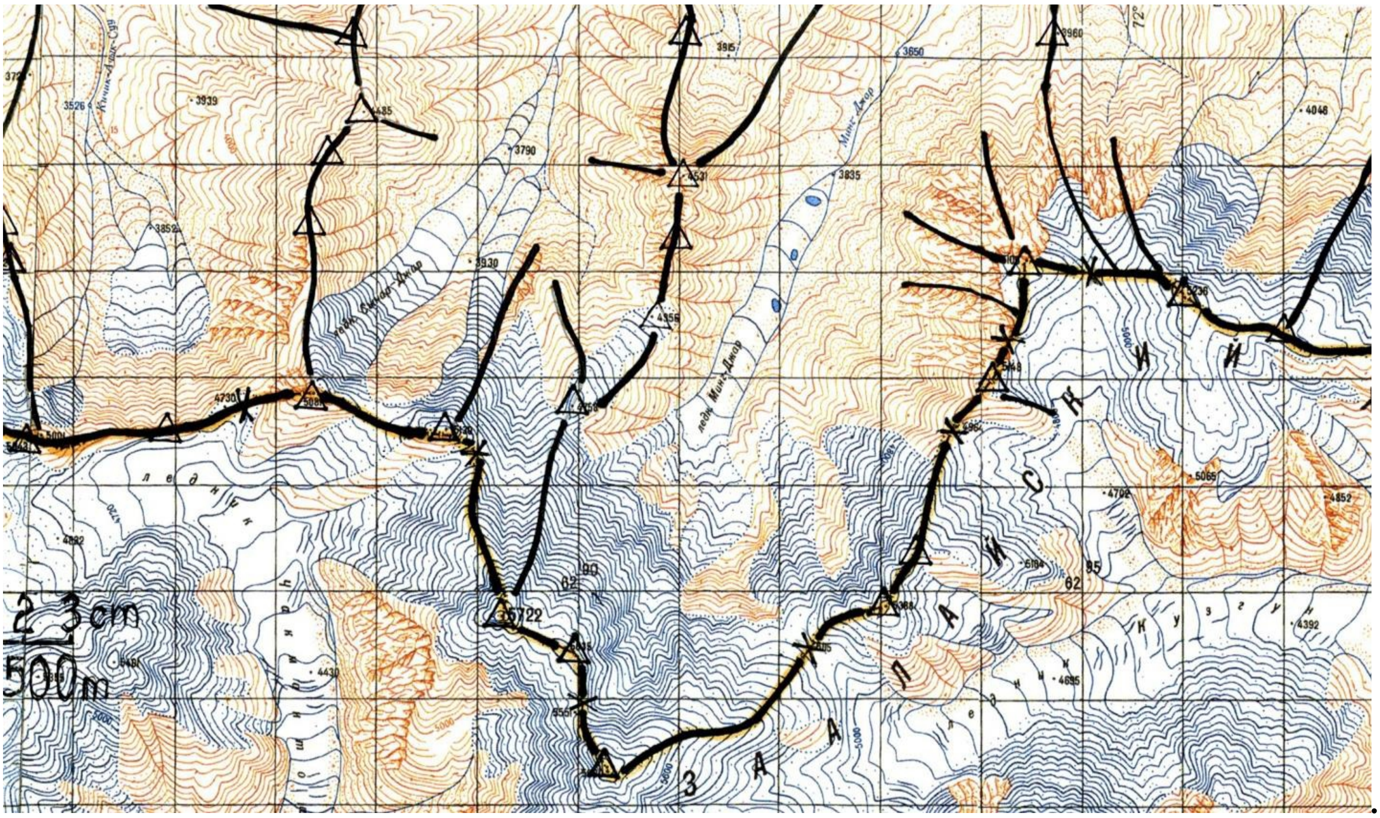
Access to immediately west parts of the Lenin Peak is facilitated by the proximity of the Alay valley provided in good road (from Osh-Taldyk pass, and Sary-Tash). There is regular Marchrutkas from Osh to Daraut-Kurgan starting under the bridge near the bazar. Two start around 1 pm and the other at 3pm leaving Osh when enough people and arriving late afternoon around 6-7pm at Daraut-Kurgan. Beyond the village of Sary-Tash destinations to the main valleys is on the way down the course of Kyzyl-Suu River Valley (the Alay valley). The branch lines offer 4x4 tracks often leading to the jaïloos north side of the Trans-Alay and possible base camps often set up to 3700. They are accessible by 4x4 with few road ability. September is a good time because the rivers are on their minimum flow at this time.

This region is located in the border area and a special access permit is required there

Cartography. Maps 1/50,000 j43-13-4; j43-14-3 and 4 (Kyrgyzstan); j43-25-2, j43-26-1 and 2 (Tajikistan); 1/100,000 j43-13, j43-14 (Kyrgyzstan), j43-25, j43-26 (Tajikistan)



Achyk-Suu, Këk-Kiyik glaciers Orographic Map



Ming-Djar-Sinar-Djar Orographic Map

B.1.4) The western crest of Zaalayskiy (Trans-Alay) west of the Ters-Agar pass

If the Sino-Kyrgyz eastern crest of the Trans-Alay is visited sporadically in recent years, the most western part however is almost a "terra incognita". Separated from the main Lenin Peak ridge by Ters-Agar pass and Altyn-Darya Valley, this part forms a real solid, equally and full impressive ridge in these vertiginous slopes of rock and steep ice-falls similar to East Trans-Alay. It forms actually a separate range. The highest point is the Peak Sat at 5900 m. It is located in the long southern branch of the Zaalayskiy Range. The second highest summit, Surkhangoy Peak (5,627m), is also situated in the southern branch. The Sat Peak range consists of Sat Main (5,900m) and, from east to west, 5,781m, 5,820m, 5,840m (Sat Middle), and 5,740m high summits. Sat Peak plateau is within the triangle formed between Sat Middle, Sat Main, and the 5,740m summit. That may be the absence of 6000 explains the relative lack of exploration in the area, and also its closest position with 7000 peaks of the Marine Academy Range in Tajikistan (Peaks Korzhenevskoy and Communism).

Though exploration of Peak Sat Range began in the 1930s but with little evidence remained to this day. Since these times, visits remained extremely rare because nearby Lenin Peak attracts most of the attention. Several teams made ascents, three expeditions on Peak Sat has been settled in 1985, 1996 and 1998 by various routes all of the southern branch of Glacier South-Kyzylsu (East Peak Sat), and all leading across Sat Peak plateau (5,700m).

In July 2002, Alexander Novik led a team of Moscow climbers on several climbs in the western Zaalayskiy Range (the Pamir), and the first full traverse of the Sat Peak range. They began their traverse from the southwest tributary of South Kyzylsu Glacier, on a 30° to 45° crevassed snow and ice slope. An easy rock and ice ridge led to the traverse of the 5,781m and 5,820m summits, then Sat Peak was climbed from Sat Peak plateau. Afterward, they continued west on an eroded rock ridge via summit 5,740m. Then it took two days to descend to Surkhangoy Glacier because bad weather made it necessary to fix ropes all the way down. They also made a first ascent of two beautiful summits (about 5,200m) several kilometers east of Sat Peak. These summits were named Kyzylkul East and Kyzylkul West.

The Western Trans-Alay (Zaalay) still holds extraordinary potential for first ascents on 4,800m to 5,500m peaks, with routes of varying levels of difficulty. The region counts around fifty of 5000 the vast majority are still remained free from any ascension shared equally between the Kyrgyz and Tajik territory.

Access to the area

The main valleys of Kyrgyzstan's Pamir North Slope are those of Kel-Duk rivers, "Keshyu-Suu-Saz-Djayloo-Tichkarov-Ter-Asha", "Djylga-Tor-Orto-Aryk-Chetki-Aryk" by pedestrian access from the main valley of the Alay (particularly from Shibe village). Some passes plotted on the map indicates the existence of traditional paths for pastoral activity. The great valley of Ters-Agar pass in turn is equipped with a 4x4 track to reach the most slopes in eastern range. It was once used to reach the pastures at the mouth of the river Muksu Tajikistan in the huge terminal moraine area of the Fedchenko Glacier. The Ters-Agar pass also included at the time of the Soviet Union a telecommunications transmission station.

The region is located in the border area and special permit is required.

Cartography. Maps 1/50,000 j42-24-4 (Putoo-Shibe), j42-36-2, j43-13-3 (Kyrgyzstan); j43-25-1 (Tajikistan); 1/100,000 j43-13 (Kyrgyzstan), j43-25 (Tajikistan)

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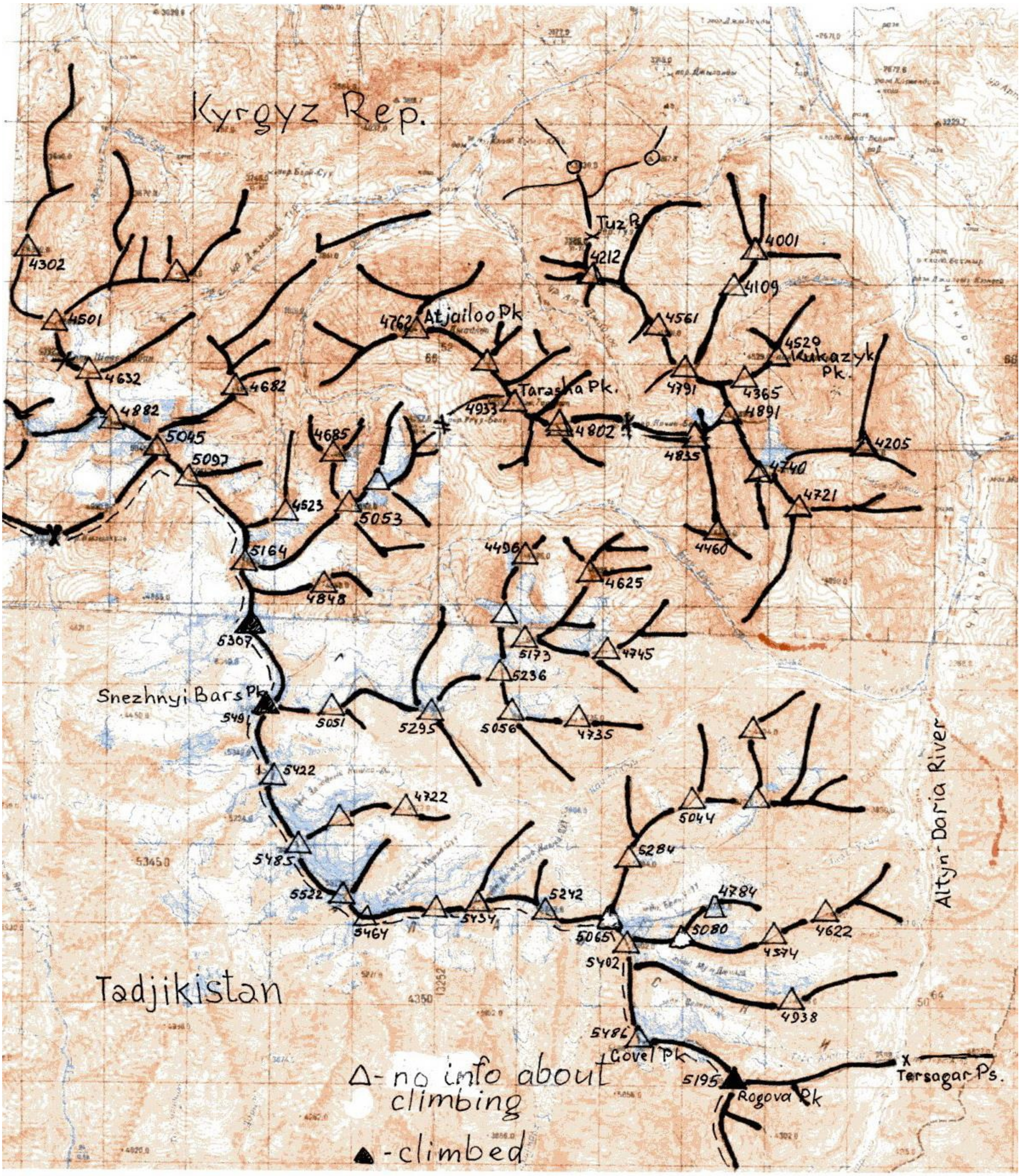
Rogova Peak West of Altyn Darya Valley – Western Trans-Alay


Kyrgyz Rep.
4302
4501
4632
4882
5045
5097
4682
4523
4685
5053
5164
4848
5307
Snezhnyi Bars Pk
5491
5051
5295
5056
4735
5236
5173
4745
4496
4625
4762 Atjailoo Pk
4933
Taraska Pk.
4802
Tuz P.
4212
4001
4109
4561
4520
Kukazyk Pk.
4791
4365
4891
4835
4205
4740
4721
4460
5422
4722
5485
5522
5464
5434
5242
5065
5402
5284
5044
4784
5080
4374
4622
4938
5486
Govel Pk
5195
Rogova Pk
Tersagar Ps.
Altyn-Doria River
Tadjikistan
Δ- no info about climbing
▲-climbed

Orographic map of East side of Altyn-Darya River

.

Muzdzhilga Canyon of Western Zaalay Range, West of Altyn-Darya Valley

Table of Zaalay Range North slope climbed peaks

Peak Name\ altitude	*Route*	*First ascent Team leader*	*Year*	*Grade*
Achiktash area of Trans-Alay range				
Lenin Peak, 7134 m (from South)		E.Schneider	1928	
Lenin Peak, 7134 m (from North)	N rib, Lipkin rocks	Chernukha K.	1934	5A
	Lipkin rocks and N ridge	Ratsek V.	1950	5A
	Over Razdelnaya Peak, classic route	Kovalev V	1954	5A
	Traverse from W to E	Abalakov V.	1960	
	Direct from N	Arkin Iakov	1960	
	E ridge from Krylenko pass	Cheredova B.	1960	5A
	N ridge	Skurlatov J.	1967	5A
	From Lenin E Gl over East culuar	Benua R.	1974	5A
	from Lenin East Glacier over NE rib	Scott D.	1974	5A
	Traverse from E to W	Kashafutdinov V.	1991	5A
Jipak Peak, 4461 m	S ridge	Starikov G.	1967	1B
Petrovskogo Peak , 4731 m	From Achiktah	Zaidler	1966	1B
	N ridge, from Jipak Peak	Starikov G.	1967	3B
		Pavlenko A.	1980	3B
	North spur	Zemerov V.		4A
30 years of Uzbekistan Peak, 5688 m	From SW	Shabanov A.		3A
XIX Parts’ezda, 5945 m	by W ridge	Abalakov V.	1952	4A
	N spur of W ridge	Krasnoukhov J.	1982	4B
Razdelnaya Peak, 6148 m	N ridge	Beletskii J.	1936	3B
	from S pass	Eshtokin V.	1956	4A
	NW ridge			3A

Peak Name\ altitude	*Route*	*First ascent Team leader*	*Year*	*Grade*
Yujina Peak, 5075				
900-years of Minsk Peak, 4774 m				
Domashnaia Peak, 4757	by E ridge			
Korzhenevskii Glacier area of Zaalay Range				
Janaidartakaiskaia Pila Peak,4224		Nozdrukhin V.	1951	
Korzhenevskogo Peak, 6008		Nozdrukhin V.	1951	
Nazarova Peak, 5015	E slope	Nozdrukhin V.	1951	2A
	W slope of N shoulder	Dulesova M.	1975	3A
	S ridge			3A
	W rib	Suslikov J.	1975	3B
Todo Peak, 4347 m	Traverse	Karpov P.	1951	
Grot Peak				
Koksay Peak,5366 m	N slope	Karpov P.	1955	3A
Edinstva Peak, 6690 m		Beletskii G.	1955	
Obrucheva Peak, 5499 m	SE ridge	Nozdruhin V.	1956	2B
Kyzylaghyn Peak, 6683 m		Elchibekov V.	1956	
Kyzylaghyn E Peak, 6624 m		Elchibekov V.	1956	
Sovetskoi Latvii Peak, 6218 m	from W saddle	Imants E.	1960	3B
Sovetskoi Estonii Peak, 6202 m	From S	Varep P.	1960	3A
VMF Peak, 5842 m		Freyfeld V.I.	1963	
Beletskogo Peak, 6075 m		Freyfeld V.I.	1963	
Spartakiada Peak, 5541 m	E ridge	Eropunov A.	1963	3A
Simanovicha Peak, 5798 m		Freyfeld V.I.	1963	
Tankograd Peak, 5147 m	E couloir	Zagorui A.	1975	2A
	N ridge	Greilih P.	1975	2B
	SE ridge	Sokolov S.	1975	4A
Krasina Peak, 5999 m		Laukhin Ia	1976	
6305 m		Sokolenko V.	1981	
Cheliabinets Peak, 5265 m	NE ridge	Retunskii J.	1986	2A
6041 m		Potrebitch A.	1989	
6310 m		Gonnov D.	2011	
Panoramnyi Peak, 5027 m		Lebedev A.	2014	
Kholodnaia Stena Peak, 5233 m				
Ledyanov Mys Peak, 5047 m	SW slope			2A
900 years of Minsk Peak, 4774 m				
Prioziornyi Peak, 4510 m				
Tashkent Peak, 4931 m				
Laghernyi Peak, 4810 m				
4645 m				
30 years of Victory, 5298 m				
Polkovaya Peak, 5097 m		NE ridge		1B
Zaalay Range, to E from Kyzart pass				
Arkhar Peak 5308 m	S rib	Karpov P.	1955	3B
Zaria Vostoka Peak, 6349 m		Novik A.	2000	
4812 m		Novik A.	2000	
5917 m	Traverse from E	Novik A.	2000	
		German team	2000	
Chorku Peak, 6283 m		Novik A.	2000	
5893 m		Novik A.	2000	
Kurumdy Peak, 6613 m	N ridge	Gubaev A.	2005	5B

Peak Name\ altitude	*Route*	*First ascent Team leader*	*Year*	*Grade*
6292 m		Gubaev A.	2005	
Belyi Peak, 5022 m		Nikonorov A.	2005	
6186 m		Gubaev A.	2005	
5505 m		Vorozhischev M.	2007	
Kurumdy E, 6384 m		Kleslo M.	2008	
Aleksander Gubaev Peak, 5368 m	NE slope	Lebedev A.	2008	3A
	NW slope	Zharov A.	2008	3A
5985 m (Eilera, 6022 m?) Peak		Lebedev A.	2013	
Veronika & Anna Peak	From NE	Henri Bizot	2014	2B
Alpine Poppy, 4080 m	From NW	Komissarov V.	2015	1B
Kuchak (Puppy), 4150 m	N ridge	Komissarov V.	2015	1B
Kharissa, 4365.4 m	N ridge	Komissarov V.	2015	1B
Jolborz (Snow Leopard) Peak, 4624 m	W ridge	Adrian Nelhams	2015	2B
Mergenchi (Tracker) Peak, 4018 m	NW ridge	Komissarov V.	2015	1B
Byichi (Dancing Boy) Peak, 4347 m	N ridge	Adrian Nelhams	2015	3A
Tohm (The Hub) Peak, 5071 m	From S	Adrian Nelhams	2015	2B
Minaret Peak, 4480 m	From NE	Adrian Nelhams	2015	2B
Kartan Oguz (Old Buffalo) Peak, 5350 m	NE slope & NE ridge	Komissarov V.	2015	3A
Uch Tubur (3 Brothers Peak) 5311 m	NW slope & W ridge	Tibbetts Ben	2015	3B
Curperluk Peak, 4318 m	E ridge	Adrian Nelhams	2016	
	S slope	Komissarov V.	2016	
Tereze Peak, 4629 m		Paulo Intropido	2016	
Chogurlush Peak, 4736 m		Adrian Nelhams	2016	
Kanzaada Peak, 4760 m		Adrian Nelhams	2016	
BBC Peak, 4685 m		Paulo Intropido	2016	
Pray Peak, 5128,5 m	W ridge	Moshnikov I.	2018	
Arkhar West 4900 m	W ridge			3A
Pogranichnik 5438 m	From N			4A
Kurumdy W Peak, 6554 m				
W part of Zaalay Range from Achik-Tash to W part of Ters-Agar pass				
Kokchokur Peak, 5185 m	Traverse	Abalakov B.	1935	2B
Sauksay Peak	Traverse	Abalakov B.	1935	2B
Dzerzhinskogo Peak, 6713 m	N ridge	Beletskii J.	1936	4B
	N rib	Stepanov N.	1980	5A
Kuznetsova Peak	By E spurs, traverse	Zemerov V.	1965	3B
Sverdlova Peak, 5465 m	N ridge	Borodkin J.	1967	4A
Rogova Peak, 5195 m	S ridge	Zemerov V.		3A
Tsurupy Peak, 5842 m	N ridge	Vlasov V.	1979	5A
Snezhnyi Bars Peak, 5491 m	Traverse	Popov D.	2002	2B
5250 m		Popov D.	2002	
5307 m	SE ridge	Popov D.	2002	
Invalidov Peak, 5885 m (5875 m?)	E ridge	Zelentsov D.	2003	2A
Leitenantov Peak, 5122 m	N ridge			2B

B.2.Turkestanskiy range

B.2.1) Lyalak and Karavshin canyons (figure 15, photos 77-83)

The canyons are located on the northern slopes of the Turkestanskiy range and administrated by Lyalakskiy raion of the Batken oblast. This is “paradise” for climbers. Rocks of the region are similar to Southern Patagonia by its structure and composition. It’s sometimes referred as Kyrgyz Patagonia but unlike the original weather is much warmer here and extent of walls is much longer. For example, the northern wall of Ak-Suu peak is 2,000 m high. Rocks are composed with solid, monolith granites, limestones and sandstones. Great opportunity for technical climbs on the known routes as well as first ascents and new routes are at climber’s disposal. Warm weather settles from mid June till September. Major precipitation is in autumn. The first climbers visited area in 1936 during geological expeditions. Their names are well-known: Vitalyi and Eugenie Abalakovi, Maleinov, Austrian mountaineer Lorenz Saladin and the others. Then they unsuccessfully endeavored to ascent the highest peak of the region Piramidalnyi (5,509m). Since that time the region has been forgotten for almost 50 years. The modern exploration started in 1982 with the Russian expedition under leadership of Leonid Trochinenko to the Lyalak gorge. Later in 1986 Karavshin gorge was chosen as the ground for Climbing Championship of the USSR. This one region has more extremely difficult routes of grade B than in all Kyrgyzstan (more than 100). There are more than 50 grade 2-5 routes in the area.

The region is accessed by road from Osh and Batken towns. Beside main road there is also air service connecting Bishkek with Osh and Batken. If you go to Laylak, you should first drive to Katran village and from there one day hike or horse riding to the climbing start. If going to Karavshin, you should drive to Vorukh village and from there one day walk or horse riding. The road to Karavshin lies through Tadjik enclave Vorukh. For each crossing it’s required to have Tadjik visa (if your country has visa system with Tadjikistan). However, this issue can be “solved” right at the spot though there is no guarantee.

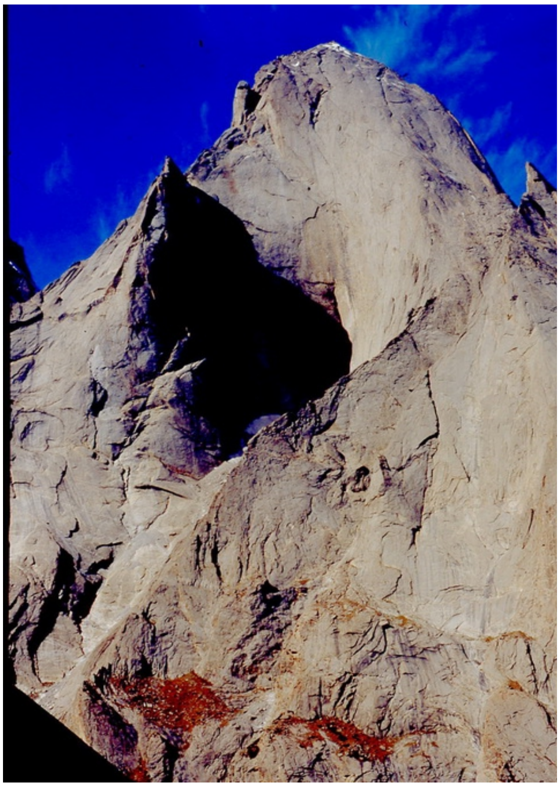
Usually to deliver loads from the end of the road to base camps horses are used and can be rented right in the villages. Fresh fruit and vegetables of good quality are available here and even cheaper than in Bishkek or Osh. Other supplies, petrol for primus stoves and gas is better to stock in Osh or Bishkek.

The region is in the border area and special permit is required.

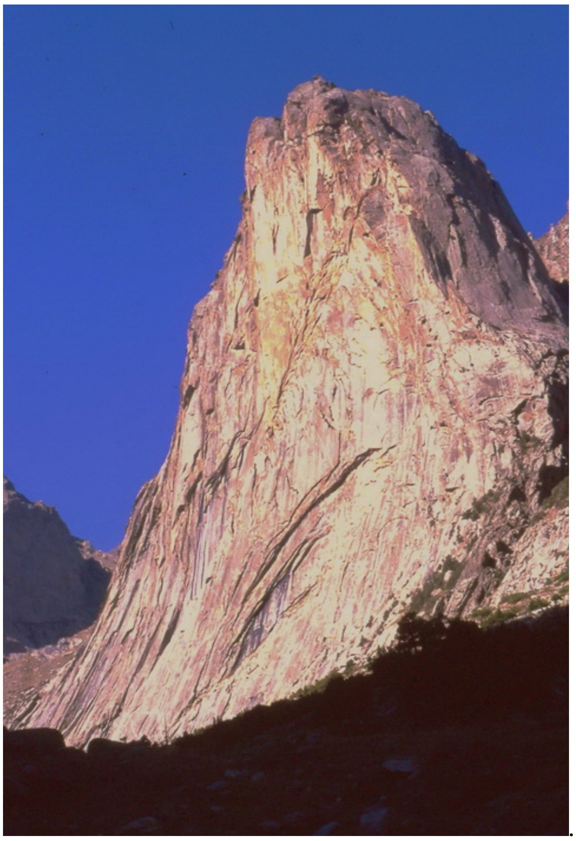
*Cartography***.** Maps 1/50,000 j42-21-1 and 2 and 1/100,000 j42-21.

picture 73. Caravan in the Karavshin gorge

picture 74. Peak 4,810, western wall. Karavshin, Turkestanskiy range

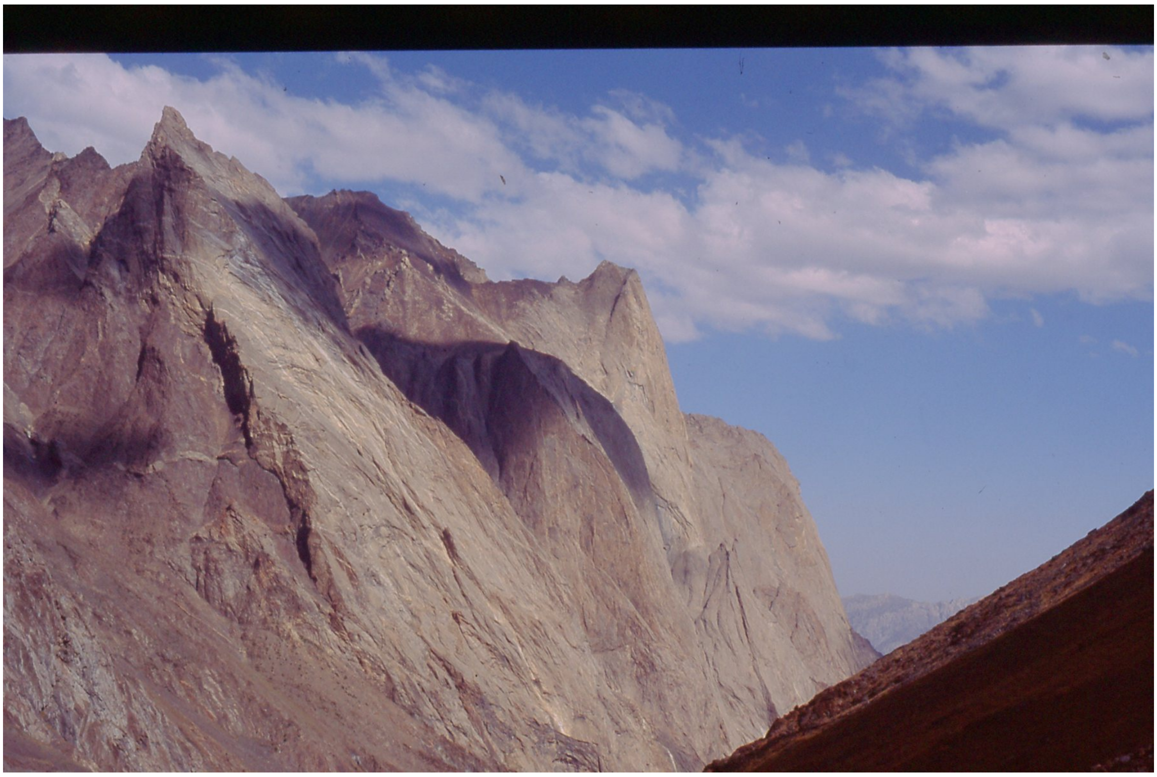


picture 75. Jeltaya Stena Peak ("yellow wall"), Karavshin, Turkestanskiy range

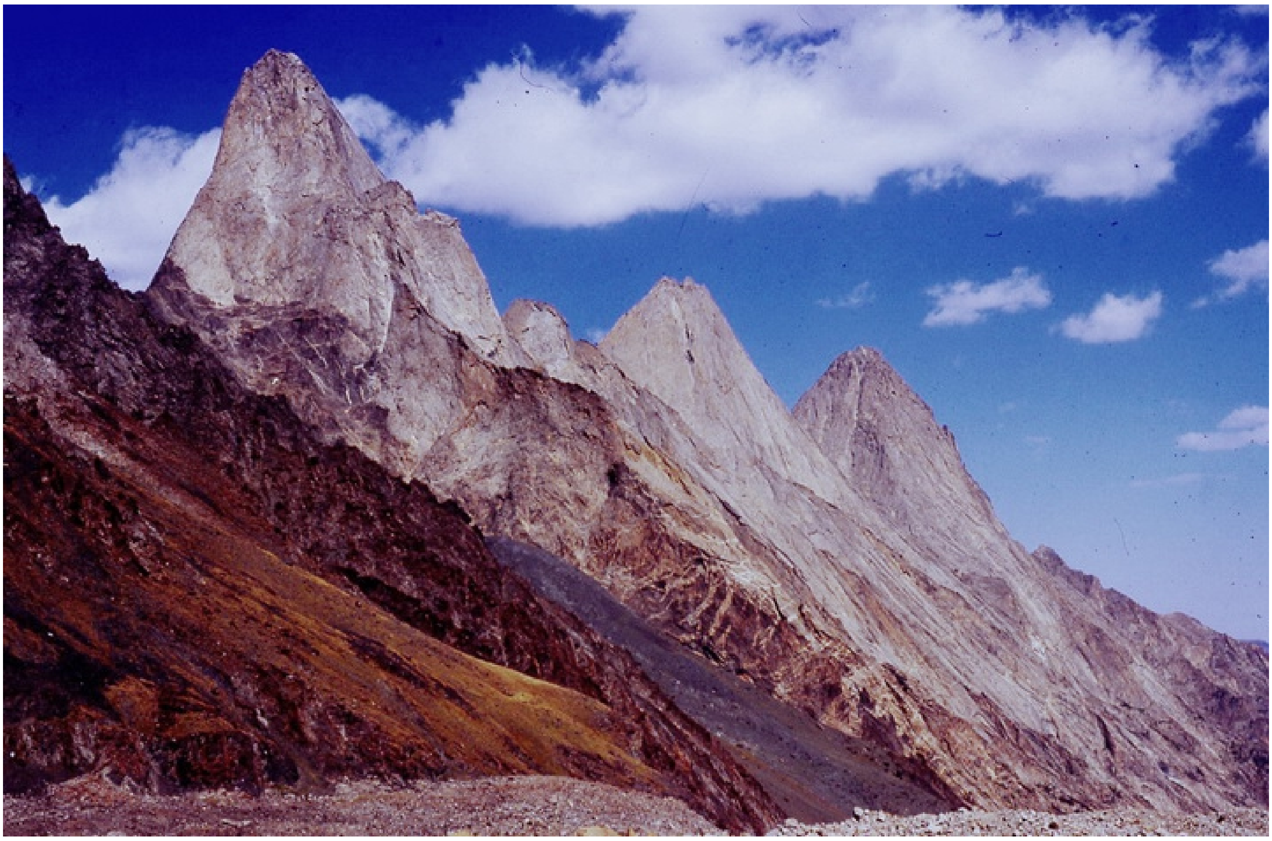


picture 76. Ptiza Peak ("bird"), Karavshin

picture 77. Slesova Peak (right), Karavshin



picture 78. Peaks: 4810 (left), 1000-letiya Krecheniya Rusi, Kotina. Karavshin, Turkestanskiy range



picture 79. Panoramic view of Turkestanskiy range

B.2.2) Eastern canyons of Karavshin region

The region is located to the southwest of Kyrgyzstan and more precisely it borders the southwest of the Ferghana valley. Its northern slope is located in Kyrgyzstan, while the southern slope is in Tajikistan. The most interesting possibilities of mountaineering and climbing of the Kyrgyz northern slope extend approximately along 80 km of the central and eastern parts of the ridge, which includes a wide variety of climbs. In fact, the region is little explored with the exception of the known world of the valleys of Lyalak, Ak-Suu and Karavshin. The climate here is much milder than in the Tien-Shan. The annual precipitation is 250 to 400 mm gradually increasing eastwards. The driest season is from August to September. The average temperature in January is -5°C and in August 14°C.

The western part of the Lyalak Valley opens to the lesser-known valleys of Uryam, Sabakh, Kyrk-Bulak and Karasang containing the same type of rock as Lyalak, Ak-Suu and Karavshin. There is an abundance of virgin summits and possibilities for new itineraries. The most westerly of these valleys, on the upper reaches of the Karasang River, there are no less than 10 km of rock faces. These walls reach up to 800 m high and are composed of limestone and sandstone. These are practically unexplored places for lovers of pure climbing and big-wall untouched.

From the town of Isfana the foothills of Turkestan offer extensive hiking areas in enchanting surroundings. The last most western valley before Tajikistan is the Ak-Suu-Sarkat-Sardala valley, opening onto the adjacent valleys from West to East of Gudunduk, Kel, Djakrut, Berk-Suu, Tenisbay. No information is available on these valleys leading to the Turkestan ridge between 4500 and 5101 at Akshukur Peak.

Cartography. Maps 1/100,000th j42-19, j42-20.

B.2.3) The Eastern Valleys of the Karavshin Region and the Matcha Node

The eastern part of the Karavshin valley comprises a section of 30 km of sub-parallel valleys, elongated in the south, such as Jaupai, Tamyngen, Minteke, Jiptik, Kshemysh. These are also rarely visited and always full of possibilities for first routes and technical and audacious itineraries. The crest has several major peaks or lateral spurs of very high altitudes such as Ak-Terek, Skalistiy Peak at 5621m and Peak Granitniy (5278), as well as a strong glacial settlement that combines well with the atmosphere of the large rock faces in the area. A real joy for climbing and highly technical mountaineering.

This mountainous area is also known as "Matcha Node". Only the valleys of Kshemysh and Jyptyk (sometimes associated with the Churovskyi glacier) have experienced expeditions by the Novosibirsk Alpine Club, the "Vertical" Akademgorodok in the years 1968-1975. During these expeditions, more than 40 summits were reached and a significant number of first ascents were made there. Access to all these valleys is easy from the city of Osh. The base of the climbs are a day or two of walking. One can even easily hire pack animals to establish camps at the foot of the cliffs.

There is a reference book on the Matcha Node region, "The Mountains of the Matcha Node", writes by L.A. Maksimov (also author of a reference book on the Upper Alay), published in Russian first 1973 with a second edition on 1989. The author describes a series of mountaineering and climbing routes in the valleys of Jiptik, Kshemysh, Urta-Shashma, Minteke, Tamgen, Karavshin ...

Cartography. Maps 1/50000th j42-21-1 and 2, 1/100000th j42-21, 1/200000th j42-05.

B.3. Alay range

The Alay ridge is one of the most complex in Kyrgyzstan. It extends nearly 500 kilometers from east to west from the eastern borders of China on the Terek-Too and Alaykuu ridges to the orographic interface with the Turskestan range in the west, for an average width of about 70 kilometers. The western region is called the Matcha node because of the presence in the Tajik valley of the Matcha village, which is the junction between three of the largest mountains in the area, Alay, Turkestan and Zeravshan. An excellent introduction to the mountain is given in the book which can be considered as the reference in this matter, realized by L.A. Maksimov, D.E. Fomenko, G.F. Sipachev, whose title translated is "Alpines Climbs in the mountains of High-Alay "Published in Russian in 1980 at the Editions "Sports and Physical Activities". The book describes a series of high quality alpine courses, highlighting all the sporting challenges of excellence in the region. Much of the descriptions introduced in this book come from this.

General geographic and orographic characteristics

The High-Alay is situated in the south-west of Kyrgyzstan, and in the north-east of central Tajikistan, in the group of mountains known as Pamiro-Alay. A good half of them are covered with glaciers and eternal snows around sharp peaks at over 5000 m altitude. The highest point of the region is the Peak Tandykul (5539 m), in addition to this there are at least more than a dozen peaks over 5000 m. The highest area around Tandykul Peak and what is known as the Matcha node is an area of significant glaciation, one of whose emblems is the Abramova Glacier. The northern part of the Upper Alay is bordered by the Ferghana valley, to the south by the Surkhob-Kyzylsuu valley, also known as the Alay valley. Beyond the Alay lies the Trans-Alay, the northernmost part of the Pamir at an altitude over 7000m. The word Russian-Kirghiz of Zaalay is translated by Trans-Alay, and the Kyrgyz word Chon-Alay means the great valley of the Alay. To the west the mountains of the Alay adjoin that of Turkestan, also of very high mountains dominated by the Pyramidal Peak. At this point, the Alay forms an orographic node, the Matcha (name of a Tajik village). This Matcha node consists of the junction of the eastern Alay, Turkestan to the west and Zeravshan in Tajikistan to the south-west (name of the valley separating the two ranges from Turkestan to the north and Zeravshan to South).

The central axis of the Alay Mountains is where the highest and most of the glacial zones concentrates. This is an extreme area reserved for high altitude mountaineering. The crest of the High-Alay ridge stretches in a latitudinal direction for nearly 200 km. In fine weather, the Pamir ridges of the Trans-Alayans are perfectly visible towards the south and its highest Lenin Peak (7134 m). The peaks of Korzhenevskaya (7105 m) and Moscow (6785 m) are also recognizable in the Pamirian range of the Academy of Sciences (Akademia Nauk). To the north are the secondary crests and the southern foothills of the Ferghana valley. The upper Alay is deeply indented by the glaciers. The valleys are often deep around the high rocky or detritic ridges. In the valleys between the remnants of moraine grows greenery, groves of junipers. The rivers there are torrential with often clear waves and roaring waterfalls. The flow in many rivers of the region is so important and the speedness of the waters is so intense that even in severe winters the waters do not freeze. Downstream, some rivers come to spread in broad arms whose waters become turbid.

The hypotheses on the orogeny of the Alay mountains seem well confirmed the general theory of the rising of the seabed. There are still marine sediments in the Alay range, as in the Himalayas and Trans-Alay. The thrust of the mountains in the vast Central Asian uprising from India to the Altay continued over a long period of geological time. And the uprising of the land and the formation of the rock mass were often accompanied by frequent earthquakes. This process continues today and, like Tibet, the Central Asian region is very seismic. Earthquakes are recorded continuously: on average magnitude 4-5, they can occur every year, reaching magnitudes of 7 points and even above. (This is evidenced by the 1990 earthquake which caused a gigantic avalanche to sweep through the Trans-Alay Camp II of Lenin Peak). These earthquakes can cause enormous collapse. The last catastrophic earthquake in the Upper Alay Mountains was observed in 1949 around a village in the Yarkhish River valley, completely destroying it (this village is now rebuilt).

In the foothills of the High-Alay, the temperature is moderate or even high in summer. But the higher you climb the mountains the more severe the climate can be. In summer at the foot of the mountains (up to 1000 m), it is warm, the soil is dry and the sky cloudless. The winter up to an altitude of 1000 m it is also relatively clement (temperature comparable to the Alps in winter). At altitudes above 1500 m, in summer it can be cooler (8°C). The slopes are covered with snow at altitude (above 3000-3200 m). The average temperature is 20°C in July in low valleys (1000-2000 m). In the mountains every 100 m of elevation, the temperature drops by 0.6-0.7°C, and in winter the temperature gradient increases considerably with the presence of the snow cover. At an altitude of 2000-3000 m in summer it is cooler (average temperature in July is between 11-18°C), the winter is very cold and long. In the field of eternal snow (4000 m and above), the temperature for the whole summer period does not exceed 10°C on average, the frost-free days. But it is not excluded that the intense solar radiation can here and there produce temperatures of 30°C. The main precipitations are from January to May (at an altitude between 1,200-1,500 m, 600 mm, and between 2000-3000 m above 600 mm).

The snow line in the High-Alay is stabilized at an altitude of 3000 m-3200 m in the northern exposure valleys at the beginning of the summer season. It is about 3200 m-3500 m in the valleys exposed to the south. According to the exposures this can vary inequally between 350-450 m. In the area of eternal snows, as a rule, there are also glaciers. The glaciation zone in the western part of the Upper Alay is the largest, but on the eastern edge of the Upper Alay the glacial zones are gradually becoming more confidential and tending to disappear (even more so in parts from the East beyond the Upper Alay, like the Kichik-Alay in the center, to the foothills of the Oibala and the Alaykuu in the distant East, where again the mountainous elevations are important, beyond of 4700m). In the high-altitude areas it is the kingdom of snow, ice and sharp rocks where the crests reach an average height of 4,500 meters, and often these crests rise beyond the clouds.

The northern slopes of the ridges of the southern region are much drier. Therefore, the rivers flowing to the north, less dynamic. Consequently much of them are easy to ford.

The foothills of the High-Alay, close to the Ferghana valley are usually desert and semi-desert. It reborns a fleeting vegetation during the rains and the melting of the snows in spring that flood from the arms of the rivers. It was then the explosion of tulips, red and black poppies, cruciferous plants, and all kinds of bulbous plants. It is the same on the first hillsides of the mountains, where precipitation are more frequent.

In these low desert and semi-desert valleys, it is the kingdom of small reptiles (lizards, water reptiles, agama, and snake cobra). However, in the flooded plains there is still a lot of greenery in the summer at the edge of the water, dense and luxuriant forests (tugai) forming like impassable jungles. In the reedbeds, among the poplars of the shores, one finds sea-buckthorn and willows. In the dense and humid forests are hidden all kinds of fox, porcupines, and wild cat. There are also many snakes, species of birds, lizards, turtles, and in rivers abounds the fish.

Above it is the first floor of the steppic mountains. On the heights between 1500-2000 meters, there are abundant thickets of hawthorn and wild almond trees near the rivers and on the slopes, and in the ravines one immediately recognizes the perfumed scent of the junipers. In the vicinity of the mountain villages grow maple trees, willows, poplars, walnut trees and sycamores. Around the villages it is a debauchery of orchards of fruit trees. From July to October, cherries, plums, apricots, apples, pears, peaches and plums, each of the fruits succeeding one another.

Between 2,000 and 3,500 meters above sea level the valleys are covered with a vegetation of shrubs gradually more sparse, with plants of the subalpine and alpine meadows. You can still see trees like birch on the edge of fields or paths surrounded by stone walls. There are also willows, poplars, maples, ash trees, and shrubs such as wild rose, wild cherry and buckthorn (Rhamnus), which border the mountain rivers with clear waters and often mask them. Close to water also grow blackcurrant. In the mountains lie the wolf, the fox and the wild boar. The numerous animal paths difficult to follow testify to this discrete abundance of animal welfare. Among the raised rocks and juniper groves, it is the lynx and marten field, summer and most often in winter, and alas very rarely that of the snow leopard (Irbis, ounces). There are also beavers and "coypu" by the water. On the southern slopes of the ridges, it is the subterranean city of the readheded marmots of the Alay. To the attention at the edge of the burrows, they grow their strident whistle in case of danger. Shepherds and hunters have gone hunting for sheep, called argalis or Marco Polo sheep, as well as Siberian ibex (Teke in Kyrgyz). In the meadows, the snowy partridge (ptarmigan) or the cockerel (tetraogalle), which flee in the groves of junipers, also poke its whistle of fear at the approach of the danger. On steep slopes there are other varieties of partridge. There are also other birds such as blackbirds, crows and even jackdaws. Higher up on the cliffs, go wild mountain goats and sheep (ibexes and argalis), eagles and black vultures.

Above 3500 meters the space is occupied only by the alpine meadows, "under-snow", where grow the fescue and the small grasses of the high steppes. In the extent under the sky of heights above 4000 m, it is the kingdom of snow, ice and rock.

History of exploration in the region

On the history and economy of the region, the Pamiro-Alay, a ridge of snow-capped mountains that includes the Upper Alay, has always bordered one of the main "Silk Road" of ancient times. It is only by the necessities of nature, and of the mountain in particular, that an evident path may be traced to allow merchant caravans to pass through these mountainous expanses with relative convenience. It was more a matter of rigors on the mountain terrain that conditioned these passages, eventually few in number on the territory of Central Asia for centuries. Among these crossing points, the Alay Valley is prominently positioned as one of the main access roads from China via Turkestan and its large commercial crossroads from Kashgar to the Khorasan beyond the present Iran. Much farther north, in the Tien-Shan, the main passage of Muzart pass (between Central Tien-Shan and Khalyk-Too) allowed access to the Kazakh steppes and beyond to the plains of Central Russia.

One of the earliest testimonies of an European on this part of the Silk Road was reported by an 18th century Russian military. During a long journey between 1774 and 1782, the "Silk Road" was clandestinely traveled by the Russian Philippe Efremov. First a prisoner in the khanate of Bukhara, this soldier escapes from his jailers and manages to travel under the identity of a traveling merchant crossing the Ferghana valley, then the city of Osh, a major stop on the road to (The current pass on the Osh-Sary-Tash road), then the Terek-Davan pass (East of the Alay, a very unusual and almost unknown trail today) going down East of the valley of the Alay then the border cross of Irkhestam. He thus reaches Kashgar and continues his way to the Karakoram and the north of India to the Kashmir, probably passing by Ladakh, to join the British trading posts of the company of the Indies. It is the beginning of an incredible adventure of almost nine years and an improbable journey through Central Asia and its southern part of which it will return in 1782 in Russia with valuable information about its extraordinary and mysterious stays in these Extreme oriental countries.

In the Ferghana valley, north of the High Alay, the "Great Silk Road" (Jibek Jolu in Kyrgyz) crosses the cities of Margilan, Kokand, Andijan and Osh, and then through the passes of Chigirchik and Terek-Davan reaches the Tarim river basin beyond the Irkhestam pass (Tarim is the vast area of the Taklamakan desert where the main river Tarim flows between the two main towns of "Kashi" or "Kashgar" and Aksu) .

The town of Margilan has long been famous for its extraordinarily beautiful silk fabrics, made by local craftsmen. The city was founded on the silk trade route. From this commercial and fruitful past, only the existing ruins of a few towers and the walls of the fortress of Urdatash survive. You can still stroll through the narrow streets of the city center, among the architecture of its adobe houses and the beautiful stone of its mosque. The modern Margilan has developed new streets, textile factories and worker's housing. Since 1928, it had one of the largest silk factories of the Soviet Union and present Uzbekistan.

At 12 km to the south is the city of Ferghana, the city of gardens. It was built in 1874 by the Russian Empire as an important military and administrative center. During the Soviet era, the city became an important industrial center of the valley.

The town of Kokand, to the east of Margilan, is one of the oldest towns in the region. The first mention of it dates from the tenth century AD. In the XII century. It was destroyed by the Mongols, and from 1732 it resumed its life as capital of the Khanate of Kokand, an important regional power on the same level as those of Bukhara and Khiva. In the most flourishing days of the great trade routes of Central Asia, the city was in second place after its rival Bukhara. Now Kokand is a textile city, where the clothing workers live. The city also develops an industrial shoes center, food industry, mechanical engineering and chemistry. Kokand is also a railway junction with its main railway station between its branches of the Ferghana valley (Andijan and Osh) and the road to Moscow. Some monuments date from the XVIII century, such as Eski-Kurgan Castle, Khudoyarkhan Palace, Urda, Naruta-Biya madrassas and Juma mosque.

To the east of the city of Kokand there were ancient gardens at Rishtan, of which the few ceramics can be admired. In 1960, a ceramic factory returned to production. The factory is located on the present estate of the agricultural farm "Communism" (information valid at the time of the Soviet Union).

Closer to the mountains of the Upper Alay is the village of Khaydarkan, an important center of medieval mining activity between the 7th and 11th centuries. Non-ferrous metals and mercury were extracted there. On the slopes of the mountain, you can see the remains of ancient cogs and other mining installations. In 1942, Khaydarkan became a mining center for the extraction of antimony and mercury. (After independence, the city remained an important mining center, and in 2005 it was named the third largest mining center in the world of primary mercury).

On the southern borders of the Upper Alay is the Surkhob-Kyzylsuu valley (Alay or Chon-Alay), which was also an important commercial road on the Silk Road route. This Rasht-Alay valley was formerly known as the Karategin. In the direction of Kashgar, the caravans came from the cities of Termez (Uzbekistan) and Dushanbe (Tajikistan). They followed the axis of the Rasht valley: Gharm - Daraut-Korgon - valley of the Alay, pass of Irkeshtam then Kashgar.

Traces of this southern part of the "Great Silk Road" are preserved upstream of the Rasht valley where the river takes again the name Kyzyl-Suu, between the upper lands of the Karategin and the valley of the Alay. There are ruins in the villages of Jirgatal (Dzhergatol) and Duvan (Devona) in Tajikistan, and Daraut-Korgon in Kyrgyzstan. For more information about these places, see Marco Polo's travel reports Marco Polo describes his vision of the valley of the Alay in chapter 37 of the book of wonders: "There is also a pleasant plain between two mountains, Where there is a large river, along which there are fat pastures where horses and oxen, however meager they may be, get fat in ten days. "He probably evokes beyond the Alay and of the pass of Irkhestam, the country of "Belor" where "the men are very cruel and very wicked, idolatry, and they live by hunting and dressing themselves with skins."

Whereas in ancient times the high mountains of the Alay were generally considered inaccessible, some local inhabitants and nobles of the Khanate of Kokand knew the secrets to penetrate and cross them. Everyone had his guide and had been able to build observation and defense posts in some valleys. Thus, in the valley of the Sokh River, near the Uzbek village of the same name, we can still see the preserved walls of a fortress named Augul. Similarly, on the road from the Alay Valley to the Khanate of Kokand in Ferghana, you can visit a small fortified site built in the 19th century on the way to the Tengizbay pass. Similarly, in the western part of Daraut-Korgon, archaeologists have uncovered a group of dwellings dating from the middle of the first millennium of our era, testifying to a relatively long human presence in these austere places. Nowadays, Daraut-Korgon is an important agricultural industrial farming center, with the state farm "Chong Alay" (sovkhoze, at the time of the Soviet Union, the valley of the Alay was an intensive breeding place of livestock, and there were a million cattle, who came every summer to take advantage of the fat pasture).

To the west of Daraut-Korgon in the villages of Karaultepe, Kichik-Karamyk, Karashure, Koshate and Dzhekendy, were preserved the remnants of the walls of mud constituting ancient forts. In the village of Ulug-Karamyk, on the eastern outskirts of Daraut-Korgon district, the remains of an ancient city dating from the 5th-8th centuries AD JC. were found.

Here is a famous Russian explorer and scientist accompanied by his equally scientific wife who initiated the scientific study of the high mountains and the Alay Valley, the naturalist explorers A.P. Fedchenko and O. Fedchenkova. In 1871, from the Ferghana valley, they began their expedition through the northern slope of the Turkestan Range (Dzhiptyk Valley, near the village of Vorukh in the region of the Matcha mountainous node), then crosses the passes in the direction of the river and the village of Sokh then Shakhimardan to return to Kokand. After having received permission from the Khan of Kokand for the crossing of the mountains, the expedition enters the range. It joins the path of the Tengizbay pass (3774 m). From this pass Fedchenko observes for the first time to the south a gigantic ridge of snowy mountains, the present Trans-Alay of the Pamir. He believes he recognizes a very high peak, actually Lenin Peak (7,134 m), whose height he evaluates to 7600. He names this peak Kaufmann Peak in honor of the first governor of Russian Turkestan. The expedition descended from the Tenguizbay pass to the village of Daraut-Korgon, a small post administered by a representative of the Khanate of Kokand. At the time the village is a small fort providing security against the numerous invasions and rapines of brigand of the region. Here, the scientist is stopped by the representative of the Khan, who forbids him to go further down the road. Thus, Fedchenko could not visit the upper Alay valley and give more information about the Pamir of the Trans-Alay. Between this more advanced period of exploration of the late 19th century on the last conquests of the Russian Empire and the post-war period, no notable exploration has come to our knowledge.

So before the early 1960s, the High-Alay crest were little known to mountaineers and hikers. Tourism development in the region began in the 1960s, specifically around 1967, and to date a number of Alpine information has accumulated in the area, mostly in the 1970s and 1980s. The crest was explored in the main valleys around the Upper Alay, and the crossing of the high passes and the glacier basins was well described in the work of L.A. Maksimov. At the period of independence the region was almost totally disused. It was not until the 2000s and especially in 2010 that there was a revival of the sporting and alpinistic interest in the high summits over 5000m, firstly by the return of the Russian clubs in the sector Then the timid appearance of some international expeditions from the years 2010. If we were to summarize the situation of the exploration of the sector, climbing routes to the passes are often better known than those on the summits, including the major summits (Pic Tandykul, Pic Aylama, Pic Tekelik, ...). There is no doubt that a good quantity of more than 5000 have never been reached.

B.3.1) The Matcha Node Valleys: from the Tutek River to the Archa-Bashi Glacier (Figure 16-a)

This area of the Alay range forms the junction with the Turkestan crest developing towards the west and that of Zeravshan (Tutek and Matcha) to the Abramova glacier characterized by its large sinking glacial fields. On the ridge there are several peaks above 5000 m and almost everywhere the crests are frozen. The whole ramification of the lateral spurs forms a complex system of small and large glaciers. Some of them are more than 10 km long (Archa-Bashi, Ishtansaldy, Nedostupniy "Unaccessible" and Yangi-Davan). On the southern slope of Tajikistan, glaciers feed the sources of the various tributaries of the Yarkhish River in Tajikistan (Darapyoz, Duvansu or Deonasu, South Tutek and Karagushkhana) to the west and the Tandykul River to the east (Ishtansaldy, Agayurma - Yangi-Davan and Ptovkul). The area has some peculiarities. Thus, the Ishtansaldy and Agayurma torrents and their tributaries are literally pressed against the vertiginous flanks of the ridges. The region also has two more marked ridge bifurcations: the western one in the Karagushkhana Pass area and the watershed of the same river, and the other between the Yangi-Davan-South and Dzhamankyrchin glaciers.

On the northern slope of the ridge, important glaciers feeds the Sokh River. Almost all the rivers have their origin on the main ridge (such as the rivers Ak-Terek, Archa-Bashi, Hodzha-Ashkan and its tributaries). Several crests parallel to the ridge separates it from the valley of Ferghana in the north: for example, the Ak-Terek crest, the Tala ridge, the Kutarubka and Kuruk-Say mountains. From the Ak-Terek range in the Matcha node begins the most westerly part of the Alay region to the Abramova Glacier in the east. The various powerful springs of the Sokh River merge near the village of Zardaly, in a furious and whirling water that jumps across the evergreen valley into the Ferghana valley where all of this powerful water is used for the irrigation.

In the valley of the Sokh, well sheltered on its southern flanks, some villages were formerly true oases in the mountains. This is the case of a dozen old villages with terraced gardens and carefully irrigated plots, occupied part of the year. These villages, surrounded by impenetrable valleys, fortified by such high mountains, have often served as a refuge to the fierce fighters of the local Khans. This is how one can visit the ruins of an ancient fortress at the mouth of the river Augul near the village of Kan (also Sary-Talaa), a tributary of the Sokh River.

Currently, in these lost villages the occupation is restricted to the summer, except the village of Zardaly considered as a wintering in the valley. However, when the summer comes, people go back to cultivate orchards and harvest apricots in the lower valleys. Other inhabitants go up to the alpine pastures, all over the valley. It is the time when everyone meets shepherds, tourists, hikers and climbers, in the camps of all the expeditions.

The first descriptions of itineraries in the south of the Alay Mountains can be found in a study report by A. Moskvina "Geology and Geography of the East Karategin and the Yarkhich River, Proceedings of the PTE 1935", And for the northern region in a report by N.A. Korzenevskiy "Characteristics of the winter glaciation of the Sokh River and its thaw, Proceedings of UZ GO, 1948". Descriptions of the crossing routes of glaciers and passes began in the 1960s, coinciding with the beginning of the tourist development of the region. There were some explorations before that time, for example, the pre-war Nemytskiy expedition through the Tutek Pass. However, it was only after the Second World War that the first real Alpine expeditions were organized in the early 1960s by groups from Leningrad and Tashkent. They carried out the recognition of new pass close to the glaciers Abramova, Dzhamankyrchin and Yangi-Davan. In the mid-1960s and early 1970s, Moscow groups opened a number of new technical crossings on low reaches in the Tandykul Mountains and the Abramova Glacier area. Currently, this area is frequently visited, but still much less than the neighboring mountains of the Matcha node and the Dugoba.

The westernmost part of the Upper Alay around the Archa-Bashi Glacier is generally designated by the tourists as the Matcha node. Although this part is generally considered distinct from that of the High-Alay, its description in the High-Alay remains indispensable.

The part of the Alay Ridge, adjacent to the East of the Darapyoz Glacier (Tajikistan), is one of the highest and most imposing. Some peaks exceed 5,000 meters, pointing slightly above the ridge. On both sides of the ridge are vertiginous cliffs, like the mountains just to the west, in the Turkestan-node-Matcha between the Pyramidal and Skalistiy Peaks. In the east branch of the Darapioz Glacier and its south-eastern flank there are two very difficult rocky passes to the north and south of Pic 5239, the Verblyud and Klyuyeva Passes, both of which are 3B. Slightly to the east towards the Archa-Bashi glacier, on the somewhat lower crest, are the Tutek, Tutek-West and Tutek-East passes (2A, 4360, 4180, 4500), Jashilkul (2A, 3940) And Karagushkhana (1B, 3900), which traverses glaciers with gentle slopes, often ending in waterfalls on the terminal tongue. The southern foothills of the ridge generally lower quickly and are quickly cleared, while on the north side, on the contrary, the lateral crests are often even higher. The valleys between the ridges are deeply cut into narrow gorges. The buttresses between the Tutek-North and Yashil-Kul rivers consist of large vertical cliffs, cut here and there by seracs of small glaciers and vertiginous waterfalls. The area is almost inaccessible or reserved for highly technical itineraries. The spur between the rivers Jashilkul and Archa-Bashi include some more "easy" way such as the Uchebniy pass (2B, 4470), Karuzo (2B, 4620) and Archa-Bashi (3A, 4600). These passes give access to the circus of the Putovu Glacier, as well as to the Archa Bashi's left tributary glacier.

The Archa-Bashi glacier is one of the largest glaciers in the Alay (its length is 11-12 km). Its course is deeply embedded in the rock. It includes several tributary branches with vast fields of neve on the "first floor" of altitude. At the top dominate impressive ice waterfalls. 2 km downstream from the end of the glacier on a steep slope to the left in the direction of climb, there is an abundant source of hot water (60 °) sulphurous. The source is visited and has nine baths dug into the rock and a hammam. In the summer, there are people who come here for a cure, including some from beyond Karagushkhana Pass (1B, 3900) on the southern slope through the glacial areas.

No special access permit is required to enter this area.

Cartography: 100,000th; J42-022, J42-023

B.3.2) Valleys of High-Alay, Tandykul and Abramova areas (Figures 16-a, 16-b)

The ridge of the Alay around the Archa-Bashi and the Iolysu was still a mystery 20 years ago. And now there remains a significant space between the Tutek-North and Iolysu rivers almost unknown to tourists. To the east of the Archa-Bashi glacier the ridge goes to the north in zigzag for about 15 km. This part of the ridge includes the highest summits of the Alay, the Tandykul Peak (5539 m) and the Snezhniy Shater Peak (5529 m, the snow tent) in the form of a dome of high snow. To the east of this ridge joining the two summits, there are two powerful glaciers surrounded by crest and serrated peaks. The Tandykul glacier begins between these vertiginous peaks, forming a large plateau around 3500 and then falls abruptly at the height of 3100-3200 m. Then the river Tandykul which is born there flows towards the southwest with a slight slope. On average the Tandykul Glacier is very rugged. Before reaching the valley of the Ishtansaldy River, the glacier crashes into a narrower gate filled with driftwood and dirty ice before turning 90° to the left and then spreading across the valley over 2 km and finally merge with the river. The lower part of the glacier is at an altitude of 2400 to 2500 m.

The other glacier, the Nedostupniy "Unaccessible" is apparently the longest in the Alay range, the length of the main branch is estimated at 13-15 km (the Abramova being larger and more massive but slightly more short). It begins under the northeastern slope of Snezhniy Shater Peak, practically below the summit ridges, and then turns eastward. As it descends, the glacier breaks into a beautiful cascade of ice 250 meters high, then curves to the right to join other important branches of the glacial system. The glacier ends several kilometers before reaching the Ishtansaldy of which it is the source. The downstream river rushes into a practically impassable canyon.

As A.V. Moskvin said, I saw this glacier, and I gave it the name "Unaccessible". Access to the glacier was defended by this barrier of narrow gorges where the furious floods of the Ishtansaldy rush. While trying to bypass the canyon, he arrived on the left ridge of the valley, from which opens a magnificent panorama of glaciers surrounding the Tandykul and Snezhniy ShaterPeaks. But the explorer could not descend to join the Nedostupniy glacier. It is from this misfortune, from this first failure to reach this place that his name became customary. However, on the topographic maps that were later produced, it was also given the name "small glacier", when the mountaineer I.A.E. Kourtchatov reached it from the north slope from a pass on the ridge in the upper-eastern part of the North-Tilbe Glacier. This is what A.V. Moskvin could not guess from coming from the southern slope. Finally this glacier was designated as the Unaccessible Nedostupniy. But sometimes it is also called the Ishtansaldy Glacier because it is the source of the Ishtansaldy River. Because of this and according to the toponymic conventions of the maps, it can also be recorded with the name of the river. In our book we decide to call him Nedostupniy as he was named by his discoverer A.V.Moskvin.

To reach the Nedostupniy glacier, from the southern slope to the eastern slope, there are several routes, but all of them are relatively complex and potentially technical.

North of the Nedostupniy glacier, the dorsal ridge of the Alay range takes a latitudinal direction. On its northern slopes are the glaciers of the North-Tilbe River basin, as well as Lunniy Pass (West 4460 and Central 4052, 2B), Tilbe West (4060, 2A) and IAE. Kourtchatov (4380, 2A).

The West-Tilbe Glacier loves itself in a short valley of 5-6 km. It has a slight slope parallel to the chain of the Alay in its most western branch and then downwards curves towards the Northeast. It carries a considerable amount of rocks from the northern slopes of the ridge and then flares slightly into a perfect bowl on the terminal tongue. The glacier has a major break in slope before curving to the left. At this point it is highly fractured. The "VAMY" pass (Shudman, 4380, 2A-2B) is located on the western side of the glacier, which leads to the western slope of the spur to the valley of the Archa-Bashi River. In the area of the Shudman glacier another pass, Lozhniy Kulp (4540, 2A) leading to a small hanging valley and its glacier slightly north. The latter finally descends towards the Tilbe Glacier immediately after its turn. The glacier also has a small straight branch that rises to the east. It leads in the upper part to the Tilbe pass, which is more technical (4500, 3A).

The East Glacier of Tilbe is a little bigger (7-8 km) and of more complex conformation. It begins at the crest of the Alay Range (at IAM Kourtchatov Pass), and forms a large river of ice flowing northward, taking left and right from other abundant glacial flows. On this tormented and complex relief has formed more or less ice falls and imposing seracs. After the last major downhill break, the glacier turns abruptly to the left, receiving a significant amount of lateral moraines and rocks, covering almost the entire front of the glacier. At the turn, there is the confluence with the valley of the glacier Serpovidnogo (sickle) huddled in bottom of valley. The Serpovidnogo South Glacier is now of negligible size, but is surrounded by a series of hanging glaciers named Balkonnym. In the northeastern valley, there are two passes through the Alay Ridge, Pobochniy Pass (4211, 2A) and Balkonnym Pass (4180, 2A), joining the South Tilbe valley which flows into the Agayurma River. In the upper part of the Serpovidnogo South glacier is the Yolisu-West Pass (4340, 2A) leading through the northern spur of the ridge to one of the western branches of the Iolysu Glacier.

The Alay Mountains to the southeast of the eastern basin of the North Tilbe Glacier falls abruptly and the glaciers decline in size. In the valley of the South Tilbe small glaciers hide in closed lateral canyons. In the neighboring valley of the Chaynok, to the east, the glacier of the same name is covered with a large sheet of bedload. From the Chaynok Glacier to the Iolysu Glacier in the north there are two passes: Chaynok North (4430, 2A-2B) and Chaynok South (4285, 2A). The ridge at the beginning of the Iolysu glacier is rounded in the southern part, then the crest rises again at a height of 5000 m as it ascends to the north. The ridge then has an important glaciation.

The rest of the crest reaches the watershed of the Yangi-Davan Glacier Group. The glaciation then becomes almost continuous until the great glaciers of the Abramova and the Dzhamankyrchin. The literal translation of the word "Yangi-Davan" means "the new pass".

At the junction of the upper branch of the South Yangi-Davan Glacier and the right branch of the North Yangi-Davan Glacier is the Yangi-Davan-West Pass (4379, 2A). In the past it was also crossed by livestock for transhumance to the pasturelands of the south of the Alay when the glacial cracks were well closed and the snowpack was considered to be firm and stable. But, it was a long time ago, it is a bygone time, and if necessary, sometimes a few sheep come to graze using a cargo plane.

The upper Yangi-Davan glacier consists of two separate valley glaciers which merge to form a single common trunk beyond a sharp spur. Beyond that, the tongue of the glacier flows quietly, ending in moraines. Immediately after this spur begins the median moraines striking the glacier in its length. The extension of the glacier on the left branch is 8-9 km. Ten years ago, it was 2-3 km bigger. The right branch of the glacier is located on a higher balcony above the main trunk and flows in the direction diametrically opposite to the left branch. From the upper part of the glacier the striations of the ice are not visible. It seems to be a vast boiler filled with snow, fenced on all sides by sharp peaks of rock.

On the glacial plateaus of the Yangi-Davan, there are other passes whose passage is more technical through the Alay Ridge, such as the Yangi-Davan-Central (4380, 2B), the Vysokiy Pass (4700, 2B-3A) and the Parabola Pass (4540, 2A, Kutarubka ridge).

The Yangi-Davan-North Glacier also has several branches, but they are smaller in extent than those of the Yangi-Davan-South, and after their confluence on the glacier the latter ends almost immediately. The right branch (East) after the gentle slopes of the Yangi-Davan Pass turns abruptly to the left and falls in cascade of tormented ice. The left branch (West) is more massive, receives heavy snow for much of the year. Its flow in the area under the Yangi-Davan-Center Pass (4380, 2B) is quieter. At the western extremity of the left upper branch of this glacial complex is the Yangi-Davan-West Pass (4500, 2A), which gives access to the Iolysu River valley to the west.

Most of the valleys in the region often have a flared profile upstream and a sharp contraction in the confluence area, making it often more difficult to reach the periphery of the passes than the bottom pass itself.

To the east of the mountainous area between the valleys of Tutek (Matcha node) and Yangi-Davan is a vast and powerful mountainous complex about 70 kilometers away from the valleys of the Yangi-Davan-North rivers and Yangi-Davan-South to the west and watersheds of the Gadzhir, Karakazyk and Kek-Suu rivers in the north. The orography can be summarized as follows: from the sources of the Yangi-Davan North and South, the crest of High-Alay realizes an arc curving distinctly towards the North, then towards the East-South-East. From the beginning of this arc is clearly drawn towards the east, a powerful chain in zigzag of 30 kilometers of extension named Tekelik. It is clearly separated from the Upper Alay by the Kek-Suu valley. It is also of a height comparable to its great northern neighbor. A little further south are the mountains of Bokbash, Katta-Karamyk and Kichi-Karamyk. Between each of these enormous uprisings in the region are formed by enormous river basins, constellated with shredded slopes, serrated circuses, and vertiginous canyons. On the outsides there are vast glacial complexes to the west, such as the northern reaches of the Abramova glacier, whose various circuses and intensely carved canyons keep these solid glaciers cool.

At the center of these mountains is the inter-mountainous depression of the Kek-Suu river. On its western part sits the great glacier of the Abramova. The bottom of the Kek-Suu Depression is 2.5 to 3 km wide at its eastern end overlooking the Alay valley, around the villages of Arpatala and Tekelik. This giant upside-down arch ends at the mouth of the great valley of the Alay near the village of Chak located at the edge of Kek-Suu. This last river is a tributary of the Kyzyl-Suu (main river of the valley of the Alay). The Katta-Karamyk valley is located to the south of the Telelyk valley (at the foot of the Bokbash crest, small spur on the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border north-south to the north of Bokbash Pass). This no less powerful valley (entirely in Kyrgyzstan) also flows into that of the Alay just to the west of the mouth of the Kek-Suu. The confluence of the Katta-Karamyk and the Kyzyl-Suu lies on the outskirts of the village of Ulug-Karamyk in a vast delta with abundant waves. To the south of the valley is the small sub-chain of the Kichi-Karamyk bordered its valley to the south (Tajikistan). The latter in the south is shorter and narrower, a small oasis of greenery, and still ends in the Kyzyl-Suu in the village of Kichik Karamyk of the same name as the river that borders it.

The whole area of the Abramova Glacier is made up of very high peaks, whose slopes of valleys, canyons and various mountainous reliefs are very varied.

The body of the Glacier Abramova originates from a vast glacial circumference divided into several circuses. The configuration is almost circular with a diameter of 6 to 8 km. In the upper parts of the glacier, where the slopes gently undulate like waves that have remained frozen in their motion by the cold of the high altitudes, several nunataks are partially shredded or covered with a solid layer of neve. These islets of decaying rocks are isolated in the immensity, where the gentle crests (between 4300 and 4500 m) surround them with a white mantle of eternal ice. Amongst the frozen sea of snow and ice, summits and crests start at the sky, often exceeding 4800 to 4900 m. For example on the main ridge of the nascent Tekelik is the Ayderbek peak which reaches 5125 m and Tekelik peak at an altitude of 5070 m. At the closest to the Alay Range to the north in the Djylysu River area, a tributary of the Yangi-Davan-North, the ridges are not lower. A large unnamed spur, sometimes referred to as the Aylama Mountains, separates the Djylysu to the south and the Dzhurasay River to the north (also named on the map, Gaumysh), culminating in Aylama Peak which reaches 5367 m, some maps give it at 5428 m), and more to South-East, the Kichik Aylama at 5192 m (the maps give it to 5044 m). The glacial complex of Abramova is distinctly separated into distinct circuses, whose frozen waves flow northward towards the valley of the Kek-Suu River and its tributaries. The surface of the glacial tongue is broad, smooth, and almost free of large crevices. In this the glacier can be easily crossed.

As a rule, the last part of the descent from the Abramova Glacier to the Kek-Suu River Gorge is located on the right lateral moraine before reaching the trailhead and thus reaching the bottom of the valley. The valley of the river Kek-Suu is long and wild, with only road access to the vast valley of the Alay the terminus of a track on the outskirts of the village of Chak.

From the west to the south of the Abramova glacier are the glacier basins Djylysu, Yllyksu, Dzhamankyrchin, Keleysu, Bokbash, Katta-Karamyk and Tekelyk giving rise to all the eponymous rivers descending deep gorges to the watersheds of the surrounding rivers Sokh (in the North) and Kyzyl-Suu (Alay in the South). The northern slope of the Alay Range presents mountainous reliefs and mountain tracts well cut and deep enough, where large glaciers can shelter. The rivers rush into the lower valley of the Ak-Suu River, from the confluence of the two rivers Ikki-Davan and Archa-Bashi. The latter river flowing north also consists of Karakazyk waters. The Ikki-Davan springs are located at the junction between the three Kuruk-Say mountain ranges of Aylama and Upper Alay. The springs are at an altitude of 3700 meters, rising from the glaciers, ice cascades and snow fields, surrounded by the unique beauty of the vertiginous rock faces and the virgin peaks that crown them.

On the way to the Ak-Suu River, the waters mingle with those of the bustling Gadzhir River from a wooded ravine on the right. The sources of this powerful tributary come from the high crests of the range of the Alay, and its eternal glaciers. After 5-7 km downstream of the Ak-Suu river lies the left tributary of Shibali and at its source is the eponymous pass (2650 m), through which one can go to the village of Haydarken. A 25 km trail takes good roads and go across a landscape of mild mountains covered with rich vegetation and enchanting meadows.

Further downstream of the Ak-Suu River, the waves have been divided into a number of canals for the needs of local agriculture, and during the melting of the snow all the abundance of water covers the floodplain. There is the village of Iordan (Iardan at 1550 m). In the vast floodplain of the Ak-Suu to the south also flows the impetuous river of the Dugoba. In the upper reaches of the Dugoba River there is a well organized and popular alpine camp (in time of the Soviet Union).

After the 4-5 km around the village of Shakhimardan (1400 m), the waves of the river are again reconstituted reforming the waters of the river Kek-Suu-north. In the village there is a youth hostel "Shakhimardan" and 7 km upstream of the Kek-Suu gorge you can admire two very beautiful lakes: the Kurdan-Kül lakes.

The glacial basin of the Abramova can be reached in two different ways. First, the most obvious and direct, going up the valley of the river Kek-Suu from the valley of the Alay. The second way is less obvious by passing each time through passs of various difficulties on the surrounding mountains from the north, west or south.

To get to this amazing Alpine playground on the Abramova glacier in the High-Alay, the mountain people generally use a transport to the most famous villages, such as Daraut-Korgon in the Alay valley. However, this mountainous area deserves better exploration, and a starting point from the villages and lesser valleys of Tekelik, Katta-Karamyk (Kyrgyzstan), Bokbash, Kishik Karamyk and Ptovkul (Tajikistan) is a real opportunity For new ascent. These undiscovered valleys undoubtedly contain interesting discoveries. One will appreciate this old remark of Maksimov at the time of the end of the Seventies, which declares that these places are at the time almost unknown, and which undoubtedly remains Even more than 40 years later.

No special access permit is required to enter this area, except for the Kek-Suu river basin in the border area.

Cartography: 100,000th; J42-011 (North), J42-023 (South)

B.3.3) Eastern valleys of High-Alay, sector of Dugoba and Kollector ridge (Figures 16, 16-c)

The Dugoba region is also a powerful high crest of the Upper Alay ridge, circumscribes at West by the valleys of the Karakazyk-South and Karakazyk-North rivers, and to the east by the valley of the Isfayramsay River. Beyond Isfayramsay begins the crest of the Kichik-Alay (or small Alay). The Dugoba sector is traditionally more tourist-oriented and in recent years has seen its attendance increase (during the Soviet Union, Dugoba hosts a tourist base for the practice of mountain sports). Since independence, the place Had been somewhat deserted, particularly by the independence of the former republics, which complicated the passage through the Uzbek enclave of Shakhimardan. The Dugoba and Kollector crests are particularly interesting for their great natural resources. Thanks to the sports and tourist facilities, many amateurs go hiking, and summer camps for youth are organized. The popularity of the Dugoba is also explained by its great ease of access: from the village and the enclave of Shakhimardan one arrives directly to the alpine camp "Dugoba". From this starting base, the alpine climbing area is 1.5 to 2 days walk.
In addition to the north spurs starting from the ridge of the High-Alay, the Dugoba domain extends to the Northeast by the Kollector ridge. The chain then disappears gradually to form a foothill at an altitude of 2000 m and ends abruptly in the watershed of the Isfayramsay river.

The North and South slopes of Kollector Ridge are both very deeply cut by vertiginous ravines. There rushes the waters of tumultuous rivers. In general the northern slopes of the Dugoba are also steep. The vertiginous mountains leave rapidly the place downstream towards the foothill and the plain of Ferghana. The region has a number of interesting glacier circuses such as those which can be seen on the rivers and valley of the same name, Gadzhir-North, Kalkush, Syurme-Tash-Davan, Dugoba-Shigou, Aktash, Ulitor, Gandakush, Glaciers of Shait and Bursun, Undukel and Shibe, as well as to the south, Dugoba, Trum and Meleksu. This extensive list of valleys and corresponding glacial sites can be seen in the exploratory and sporting richness of the sites. All of these glaciers give rise to rivers that feed the Ak-Suu basins in the west and the Isfayramsay in the east. The height of the ridge is between 3000 m and 5000 m.

The ridge of the Upper Alay and the Dugoba region also concentrate by its multiple branches and the encroachment of its high valleys, forming vast panoramas of glaciers and eternal snows. On the northern side are the glaciers Karakazyk-Nord, Egorova, Syurme-Tash, Jashilkul, Sougdzhayloo and on the south side, the Karakazyk-South glaciers, Ullukol, Dzhugurtash (Levisnkiy glacier), Kosh-Kain. And we do not talk about many other glaciers and fields of neve with unknown names. The accumulation of such a glacial quantity obviously gives rise to tumultuous waters which feed the Ak-Suu, Syurme-Tash and Isfayramsay on the side of the northern slope and mainly the Kyzyl-Suu river on the southern slope. The rivers, as we have mentioned, are engulfed in deep valleys, under the steep slopes and the high ridges which rise above the top of the river between 4000m and 4800m. The latter, it must be specified after this first mountainous evocation, is essentially a mixed terrain between rocks, snows and fractured ice.

It is at the orographic connection between the ridge of the Kollector and the dorsal of the Alay that the telluric uprising bears its most powerful mark. Here it is an area of intense glaciation where the peaks and neve fields reach a height of more than 5000 m (for example, at the Uzbekistan Peak at 5232 m, the Pic Akhunbabayev at 5200 m and the Peak Materey at 5010 m). Among the distinctive features of the Dugoba Mountains, we will note the high altitude of the glaciers on the northern slopes. On the southern side the slopes are steep, sometimes strewn with permanent neve, but mostly of strongly disintegrated rocks. Glaciers are often very cracked and have a very high accumulation of moraine material on the edges and the terminal tongues. Often the slopes at the foot of the cones of scree impress, like a cyclopean plow tracing a furrow of ancient moraines. The canyons are not left behind in this natural picturesque scenery, generously filled by the abrupt and sometimes unstable stones. This is the case, for example, with the vertiginous gorges of the Trum and Meleksu rivers on the southern slope, both of which are tributaries of Syurme-Tash.

In almost all the canyons of the northern slope grow thick groves of junipers, punctuated by green meadows. At the edge of the torrents more downstream are forests of birch and maple. Upstream on the glacial moraines, the retention of abundant waters left many small and large lakes. In the gorge of the Kek-Suu River (on the north slope of the Kollector ridge) at an altitude of 1650 m lies the beautiful waters of Kurban-Kul Lake in the rubble of the old moraines (Blue Lake) and Lake Jashilkul (Green Lake), the colors of which they have been given the name. These two lakes are relatively close. The first one is closer to Shakhimardan and not far away is the tourist center "Shakhimardan" accessible by a well-marked road. Kurban-Kul Lake is important. It is situated on a large flat terrace in the valley and feeds by the waters of the river Kek-Suu. Lake Jashilkul is smaller, located along a rocky gorge, surrounded by verdant slopes covered with grass and junipers. From the first Kurban-Kul lake one goes to the second Jashikul by a path on the west bank. The enchanting landscapes of the "Shakhimardan" site make these mountains and surrounding valleys a favorite holiday spot for the inhabitants of the Ferghana valley. You can also stay and eat at the famous hostel "Izbasar". From Shakhimardan to the Ferghana valley there are about 65 km of paved road. It can also be noted that not far away, in the enclave of Shakhimardan there are also sources of curative waters (mineral and thermal) popularly named "Matsesta". There are also other recreational facilities such as Chimion and Piday.

Several routes are possible to reach the Dugoba region. Here is briefly described, the one leading to the valley of Isfayramsay. The route by car or bus from the Ferghana valley (Osh) leads to the village of Uch-Korgon 45 km to the south east at the foot of the mountains in the Ferghana plain. The road then continues along the Isfayramsay River to the village of Karaul (passing through Kara-Djilgash, Maydan), the route from Uch-Korgon is therefore entirely in Kyrgyzstan, Uch-Korgon being also in territorial continuity from Osh. Thus Isfayramsay is fully accessible from Kyrgyzstan. From here, you drive up to a tea house at the mouth of the Syurme-Tash river. From here you can go up the river only on foot or on horseback on good hiking trails that lead to the origins of the Dugoba glaciers. The roads from the south all leave from the valley of the Alay and the village Daraut-Korgon.

The region of the Dugoba administratively depends on Kyrgyzstan Republic. However in the access roads to this region it is necessary to cross the villages Shakhimardan and Iordan which is in territory of the Uzbekistan. In a schematic way, the zone of the mountain node can be divided between the northern slope of the Kollector ridge, the Kollector itself and the western part of the Alay ridge.

No special access permit is required to enter this area.

Cartography. Maps 1/50000th j42-12-1 to 4 and 1/100000th j42-12.

B.3.4) Central Valleys of Little-Alay (Kichik-Alay) (figures 16-c, 16-d)

The Kichik Alay range is located to the east of the Kollector crest, between the Isfaramsay valley and the Jiptik-Suu valley. The range comprises two ridges on either side of the eastern and western valleys of the Kichik-Alay rivers. The two ridges North and South have many small glaciers on the northern slopes. The crest culminates at Skobelev Peak at 5031 m. In recent years a few mountaineering treks have been organized regularly in the region, which is easily accessible either from Osh and the Ferghana valley (Shile, Kyzyl-Ata, Gezart, Ak-Art valleys) or from the valley of Alay. Almost everywhere in the area it is easy to find horses or donkeys to rent for transporting loads. The climbing season begins in May and ends in October. It begins earlier than in Tien-Shan and extends longer. For nature lovers, there would be a small population of snow leopard in the area, but that's to be confirmed.

The possibilities of the first rocky and mixed climbs on the great 4000 of the mountains are still significant, because the range suffer of a certain disaffection due to the too great proximity with the Lenin Peak immediately to the South, as well as too many sectors of the Alay in general. The largest glacial settlement is around Skobelev Peak and the Kindik Valley on the South Branch and the Gezart Valley and Glacier on the North Branch.

No special access permit is required to enter this area.

Cartography. Maps 1/50000th k43-134-3 and 4 (North), 1/100000th K43-134, j43-01 and j43-02, 1/200000th j43-01 (South), K43-31 (North).

B.3.5) Other centro-eastern valleys of the Alay range (figures 16-d, 16-e)

This mountain zone can be located between the Kichik-Alay to the west and the Oibala to the east. It is located mainly around the main road of Taldyk Pass, where you can reach the village of Sary-Tash from Osh (M41). It is in fact constituted by a series of small crests scattered around alpine areas. There are few glaciers and the atmosphere is much more dry and rocky. It is not uncommon to encounter very solid rock formations, and a rough environment of good quality for the practice of climbing. The most important ridges are the Tuyuk-Suu (4545 m), Taldyk-Suusamyr (4237), Ak-Tër (4533 m), Kokbulak (4039, Northwest Oïbala), Olokon-Too (4060), Kum-Bel (4000), Kashkasu (4619, West of Oïbala), Yalangash-Tash (4040-4086, Northern Kashkasu), Kyzyl-Agyn (4478m, north of the Oïbala), Terektyn-Aktektyr (4618m, Terek-Davan Pass), Kindyk (West Terek-Too), Kurbu (4512, West Terek-Too), Sugutakhtyktyr-Kashkasuduk-Basydak-Tash (Sugut Peak 4701 m and Sugut Pass), Archaltur (4537m m), Ak-Changyl (4044 m), Kara-Djylga (4458m, southeast of Terek-Davan Pass).

In addition to the long trek to the mythical Terek-Davan Pass, the Great Silk Road from Kashgar to Osh, now devoted to the summer migration of the herds to the Jailo, the area conducive to walking and long-distance trekking. It obviously conceals treasures of high mountains, like the rediscovery in 2010 of the crystalline ridge of the Oibala more to the East.

No special access permit is required to enter this area.

Cartography. Maps 1/100000th k43-135, k43-136, j43-03 and j43-04, 1/200000th j43-02 (South), k43-32 (North).

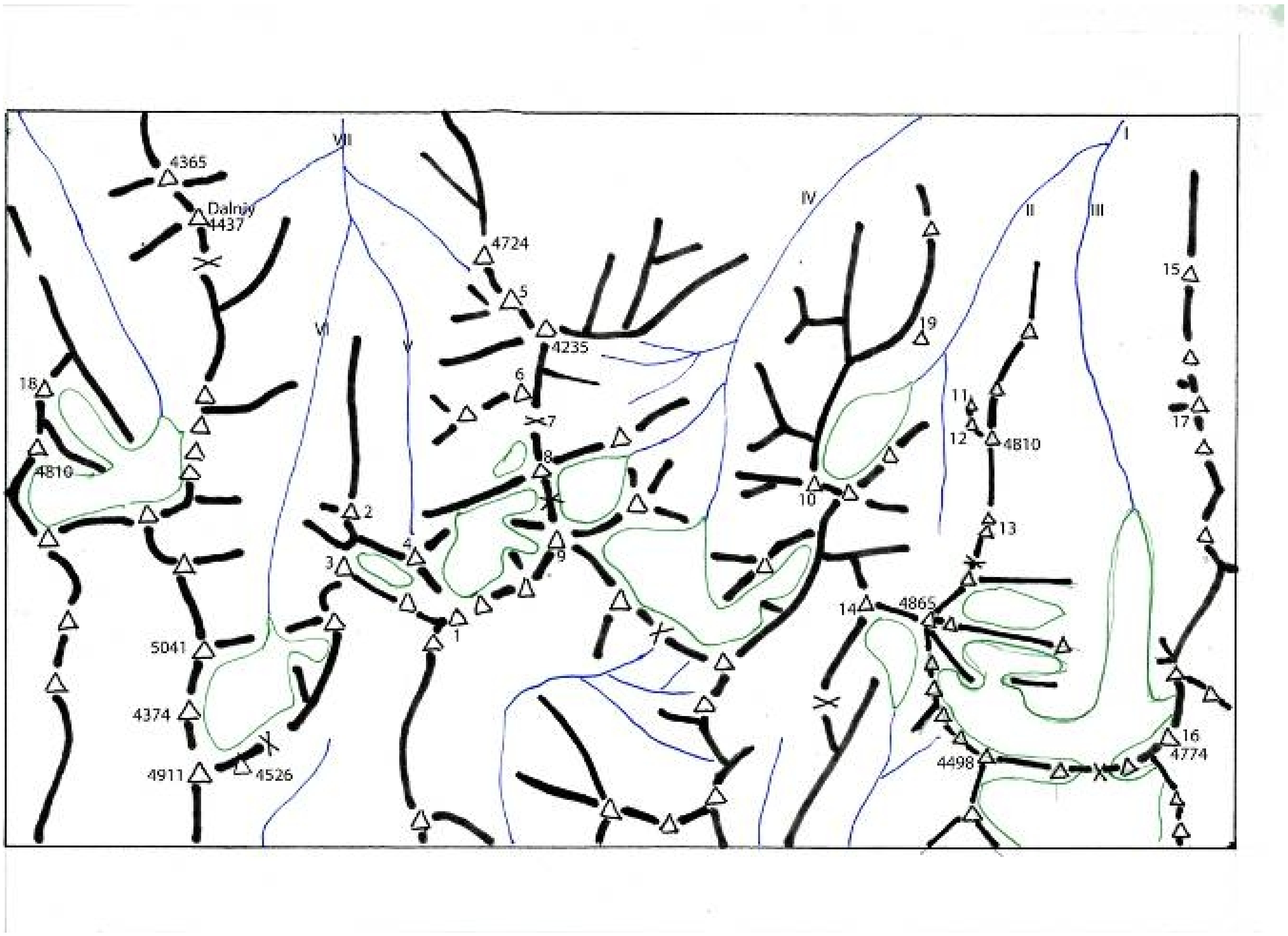

4365
Dalniy
4437
VII
VI
V
4724
5
4235
6
7
8
9
IV
II
III
I
15
19
18
4810
2
3
4
1
5041
4374
4911
4526
10
11
12
4810
13
14
4865
17
16
4774
4498

figure 15. Orographic map of canyons Layalak and Karavshin, Turkestanskiy range

Peaks

1.Ak-Suu, 5335
2.Petrogradets, 5163
3.Admiralteets, 5090
4.Iskander, 5120
5.Dostoevskogo, 4974
6.Domashnii, 4866
7.Col Aktubek, 4384
8.Pic Aktubek, 5125
9.Alexandr Blok, 5229
10.Karasuu, 5309
11.Usen, 4378
12.Asan, 4230
13.Ak Suu, 4925
14.Piramidalnii, 5509

Peaks (next)

15.1000let Kreschenia Russi, 4376
16.Ptitsa, 4774
17.Slesova, 4240
18.Parus, 5037
19.Zholtaya Stena -*le mur jaune, 4210

Rivers

I.Karavshin
II.Kara-Suu
III.Ak-Suu
IV.Ortochashma
V.Ak-Suu
VI.Kara-Suu
VII.Djety-Kupruk

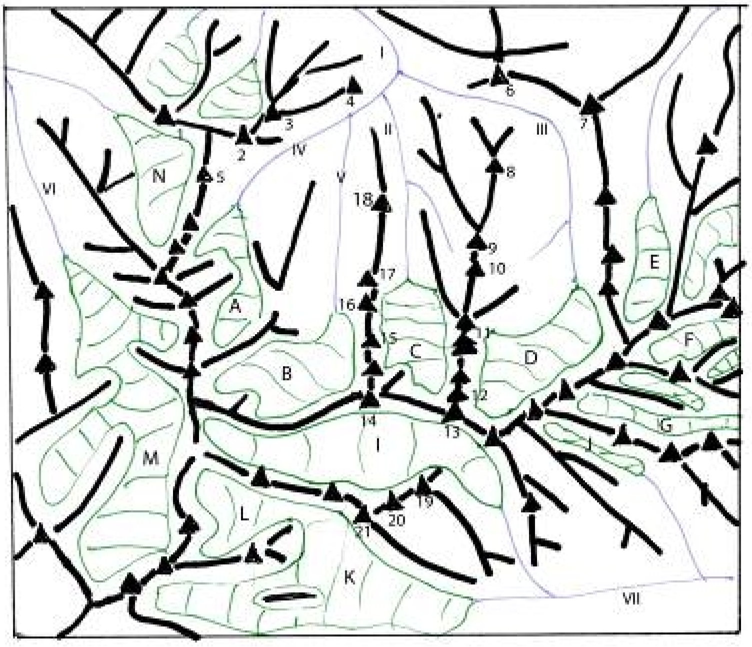

I
II
III
IV
V
VI
VII
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
I
J
K
L
M
N

figure 16. Orographic map of Dugoba canyon

Peaks	**Glaciers**	**Rivers**
1.Kalkush, 4250	A.Belaia Shapka	I.Dughoba
2.Pozhilyh Ludei, 4000	B.Dugobashigou	II.Dugoba
3.Selskogo, 4426	C.Aktash	III.Ulitor
4.4021	D.Ulitor	IV.Surmitash
5.Zamok, 3943	E.Gandakush	V.Aktash
6.Panoramnyi, 3942	F.Stroitel	VI.Gadzhir
7.Komsomolskiy, 3900	G.Trum	VII.Archakanysh
8.Hamza, 4125	I.Dugoba	
9.Dvuzubka, 4430	J.Djakshikul	
10.Che Ghevara, 4700	K.Egorova	
11.Vechernii Sverdlovsk, 4600	L.Tashkent	
12.Zachetnyi, 4400	M.Gadjir	
13.Aktash, 4937	N.Aktivistov	
14.Mehnat, 4613		
15.Rabotnitsa 4807		
16.Krestianka, 4100		
17.Dugoba, 4200		
18.Synovey 4002		
19.Materei, 5010		
20.Uzbekistan, 5100		
21. 5232		

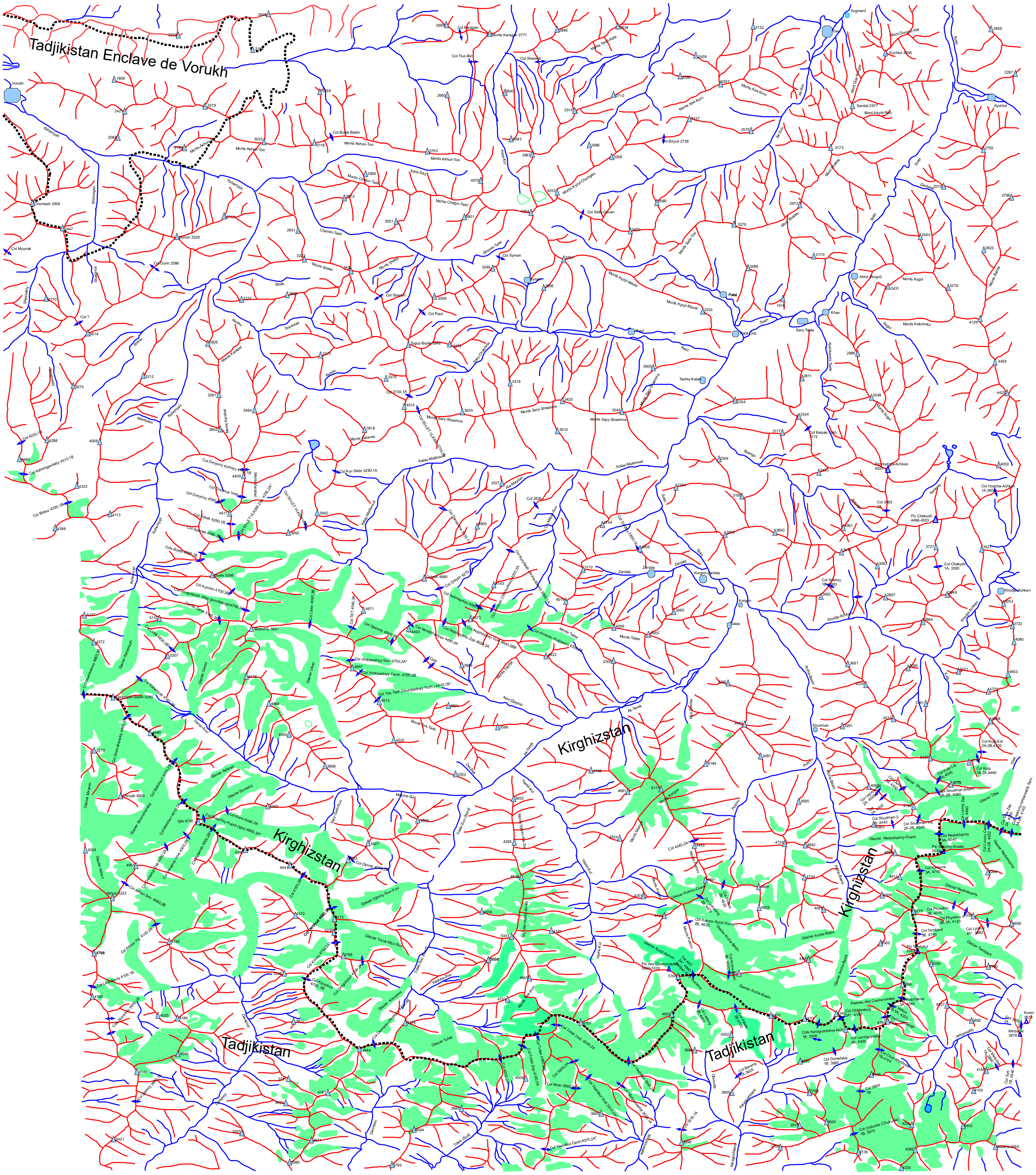

Tadjikistan Enclave de Vorukh
Kirghizstan
Kirghizstan
Kirghizstan
Tadjikistan
Tadjikistan
Vorukh
Sogment
Kychtut
Khan
Patal
Sary-Tasla
Rauf
Tashty-Kalai
Zardaly
Korgon-Zardaly
Shudman
Glacier Tukes
Glacier Archa-Bashi
Glacier Tandykul
Plateau des Cosmonautes
Pic des Cosmonautes

figure 16.a, Orographic Scheme of Alay Range, Matcha Node Area, from Kshemish Valley to Tandykul Peak

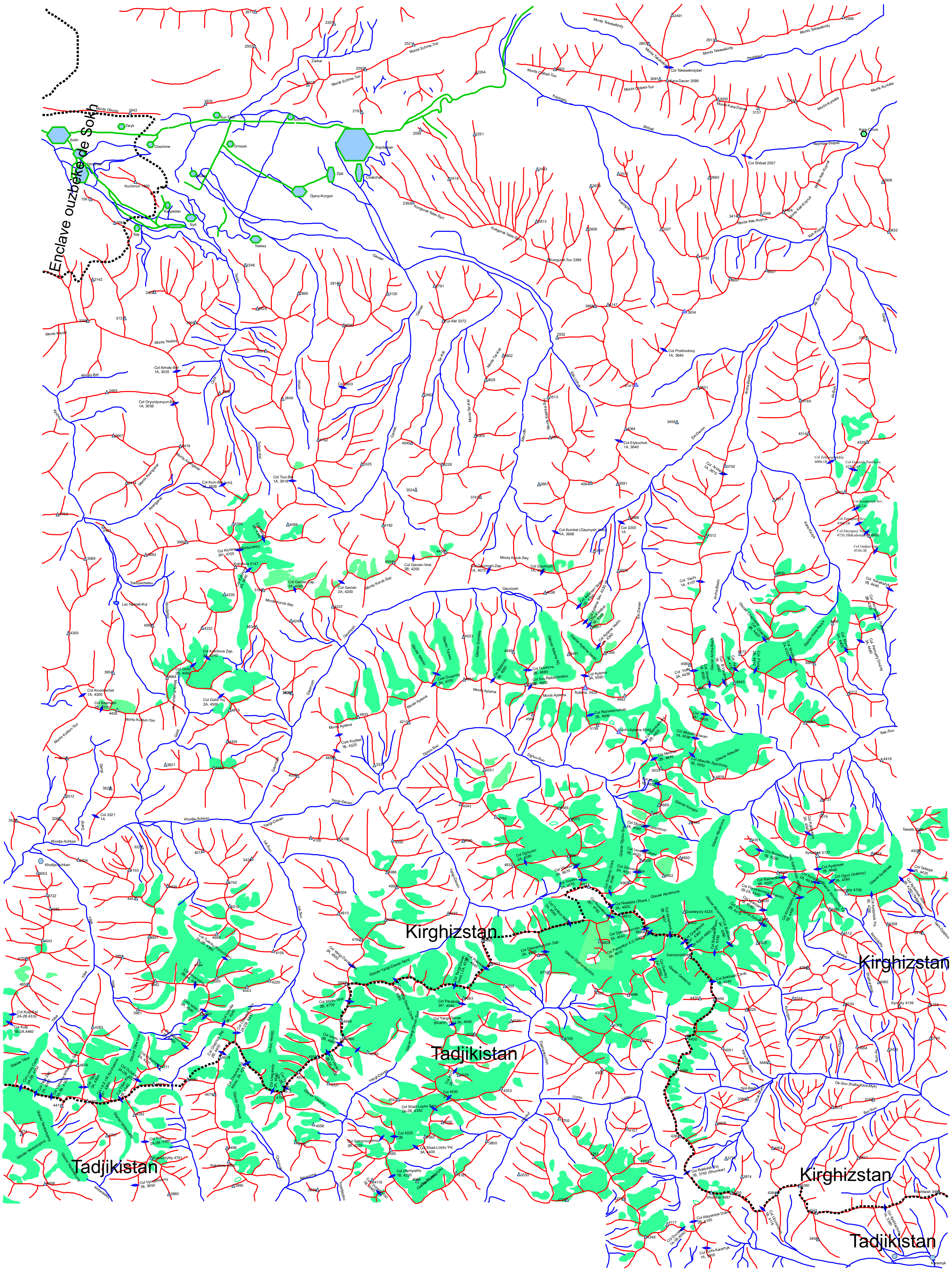

Enclave ouzbeke de Sokh
Sokh
Kaydazkan
Djany-Korgon
Teskey
Monts Teskey
Gavian
Gaumysh
Monts Aylama
Glacier Abramova
Kirghizstan
Tadjikistan
Kirghizstan
Kirghizstan
Tadjikistan
Tadjikistan

figure 16.b, Orographic Scheme of Alay Range, Matcha Node to Abramova

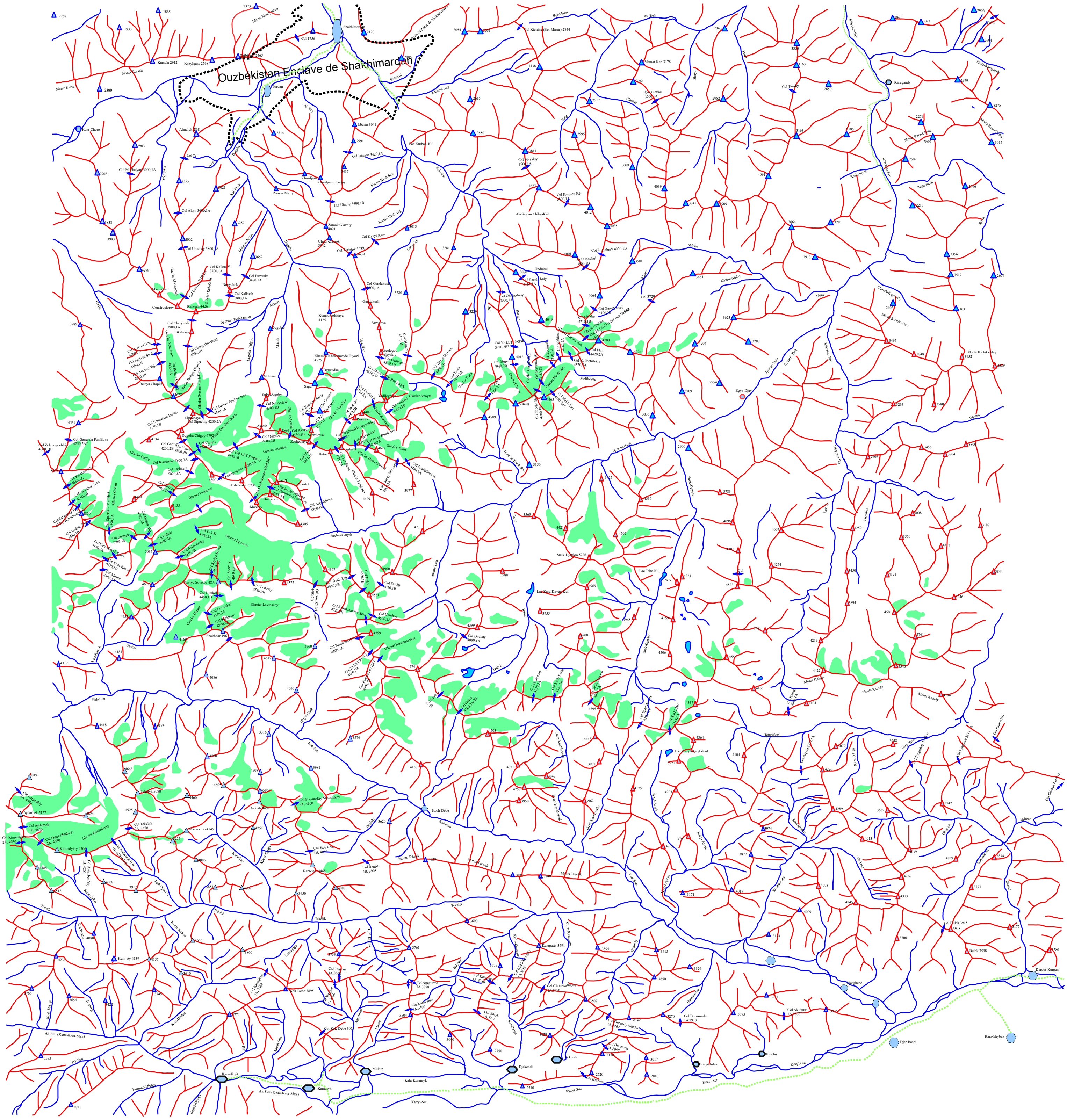

Ouzbekistan Enclave de Shakhimardan

figure 16.c, Orographic Scheme of Alay Range, High Alay Area of Dugoba Valley and Kollector Range

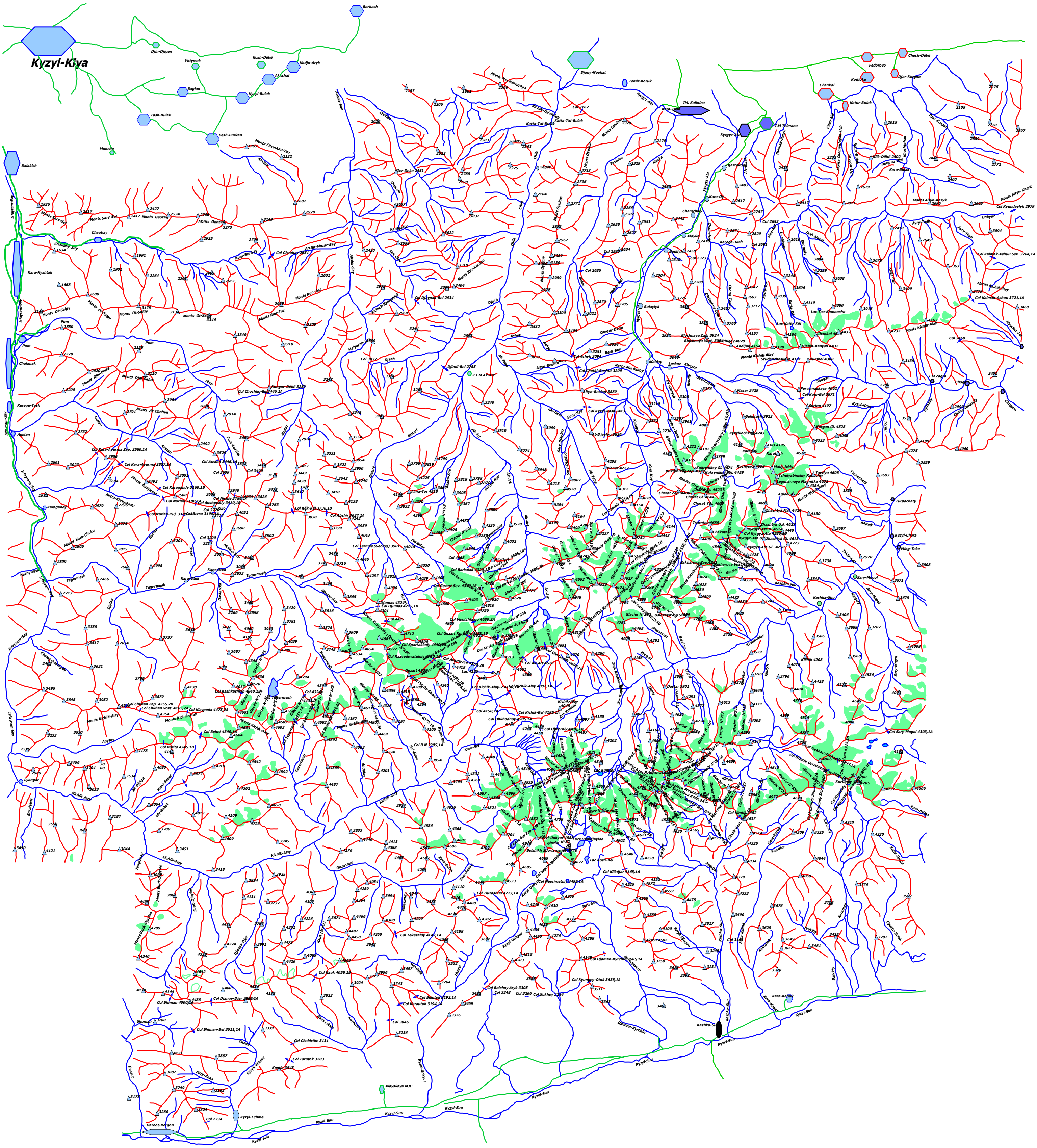

Kyzyl-Kiya
Borbash
Djin-Djigen
Yntymak
Kosh-Dëbö
Kodjo-Aryk
Akcichal
Baglan
Kyzyl-Bulak
Tash-Bulak
Besh-Burkan
Balakish
Djany-Nookat
Temir-Koruk
IM. Kalinina
I.M Talmana
Fedorovo
Chech-Dëbö
Chankol
Djar-Korgon
Kotur-Bulak
Katta-Tal-Bulak
Chaubay
Kara-Kyshtak
Pum
Chakmak
Kerege-Tash
Austan
Karagandy
Kyzyl-Suu
Kashka-Suu
Daroot-Korgon
Kyzyl-Echme
Alayskaya MJC
Kichik-Alay
Sary-Mogol
Kurumdy
Shumkar
Col Sary-Mogol 4303,1A
Lac Kashkashu
Gl. Kashkashu
Monts Kichik-Alay

figure 16.d, Orographic Scheme of Alay Range, Area of Kichik Alay Range

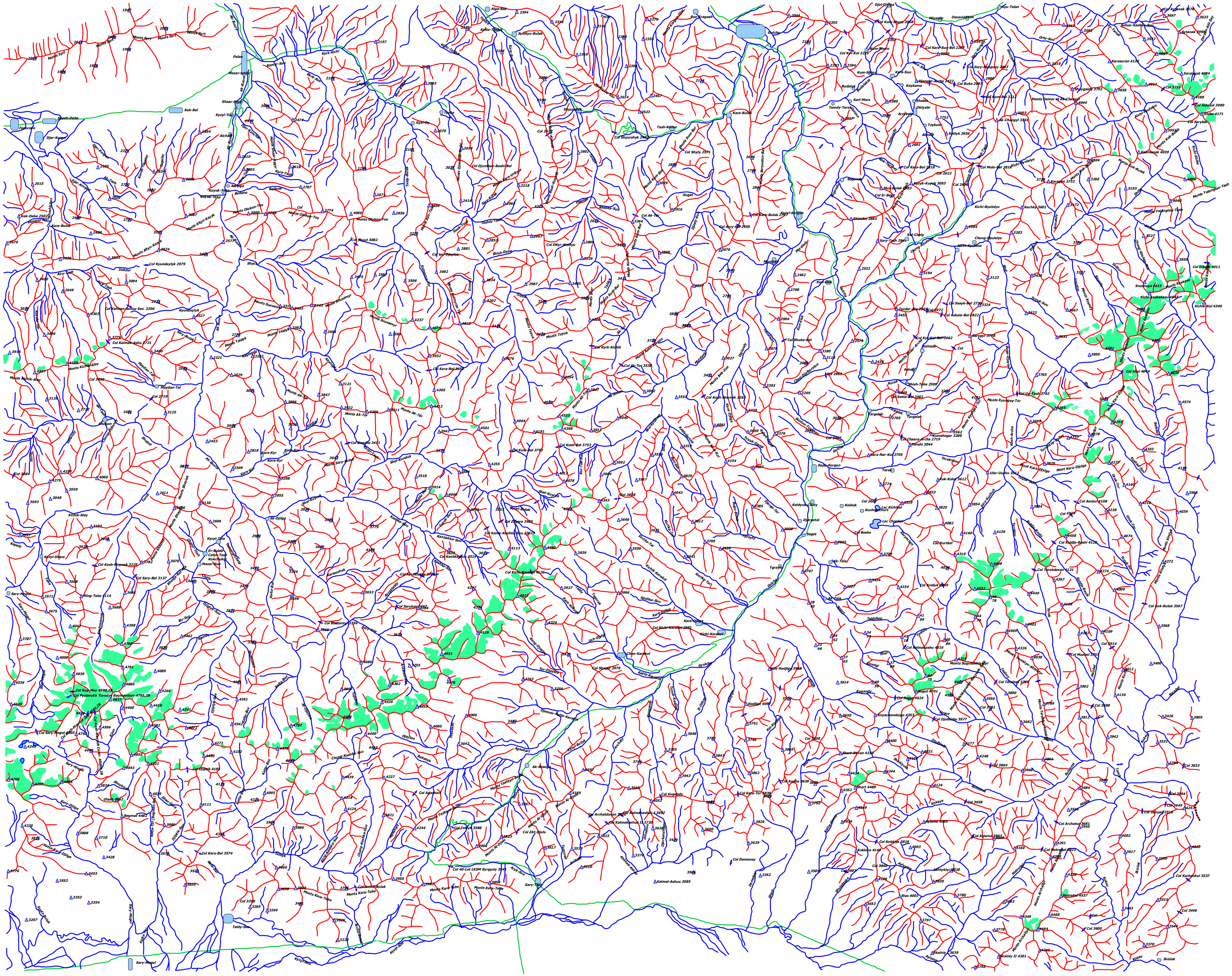


figure 16.e, Orographic Scheme of Alay Range, East Alay Area between Kichik-Alay and Oïbala Range

B.3.6) Oïbala range, the far East of the Alay

Miscellaneous features

Alay mountain, is a very long ridge rather longitudinal in extension on nearly 550 km. It begins with the west bordering the south part of the Ferghana Valley in the south of Osh and further East of that city it separates Ferghana from the large valley of the Alay and has finally lost at the Chinese border in the most Eastern part. It is in this latter area that there is a small crystalline range, the Oïbala, named after the river that bathes these foothills. The highest summit of the range is the Peak Oïbala to 4948 m. The crest contains several peaks over 4700. And the surrounding valleys are also rich in elegant peaks of comparable height. The range is a short ridge of craggy peaks in alpine style, oriented north to south. The Oïbala (GPS 40°07'22.79" N, 73°55'31.69" E) is located north of the pass Irkeshtam. The range is surrounded by two rivers, Kok-suu in the West and in the East Oïbala. Beyond this last river is Sino-Kyrgyz border peaks.

The geology of the range is relatively complex, but it follows a classic pattern now recognized in the Tien-Shan region. Rise of the Tien-Shan and Pamir nearby, pierced successive layers of rocks in order of depth: sedimentary, metamorphic and crystalline deeper. Thus schematically in the foothills is first found sandstone (eg the red cliffs at the foot of Kichi-Alay on the road of Taldyk pass), very compact limestone forming beautiful cliff around 4000, above metamorphic rocks and on the ridge edge hardest rocks as granite and previously the deepest one. It is this granite outcrop that formed this great playground for climbers in Oïbala.

The summer climate of Oïbala is generally stable over several days, with occasionally some rain (sometimes very long incidentally). August to September is the best climbing period. The temperature is mild rather reasonable given the altitude of the range.

Exploration and history of the range

The range keeps the attention of contemporaries first visitors in 2007. Two Russian mountaineers from Omsk, make a first recognition noting the beautiful granite peaks of the main ridge. This tour reveals some traces of pastoral activities. It is also known that the area was explored by Soviet geologists in the 1930s, but extensive research has not revealed any previous visit by climbers. Three expeditions have taken place since in the area:

- 2011 Dutch expedition led by "Bas van der Smeede": Peak Brokkel 4,750m (west buttress, D, mixed 60° slopes, "Guns of Navarone") Camakchay Tour 4,215m (south pillar, 900m, TD +, rock, "Yellow Submarine"), Peak Basbas 4,785m (785m, D+/TD- "Natte Neuzen Show", mixed 50° slopes), Pik Pewi 4,310m (south ridge, PD, "Peter-Wim") Pik Marian 4,450m (north face and west ridge, AD, mixed 55° slopes), Pik Oibala 4,950m (northwest face, 700m, TD-, mixed, 75° slope "Elektroshock Blues").
- 2013 Dutch expedition led by "Pamir Alay Klimmers" Dennis Straathof, JACOS van Zelst and Joep Bovens: Peak Irroli 4613m, (AD, "Middle Aged Man"), Peak Mel 4194m (limestone stable rock, 6a +, "Icecream for lunch ") Pik BROO, 4562m, (mixed, AD," Double Dutch "), Peak" Little Matterhorn ", 4055m (compact limestone rock, 100m, 6b," Down the Rabbit Hole "), Pik M 4472m, (D, "Do not trip, do not fall"), Dragon's Back Peak, 4580m (rock, mixed, TD/6a, "Our Way")
- 2014 French expedition led by "Jerome Ronssin" : No information to date

All observers noted the superb climbing opportunities in the Oïbala range including an incredible amount of possible first rock climbs in generally good.

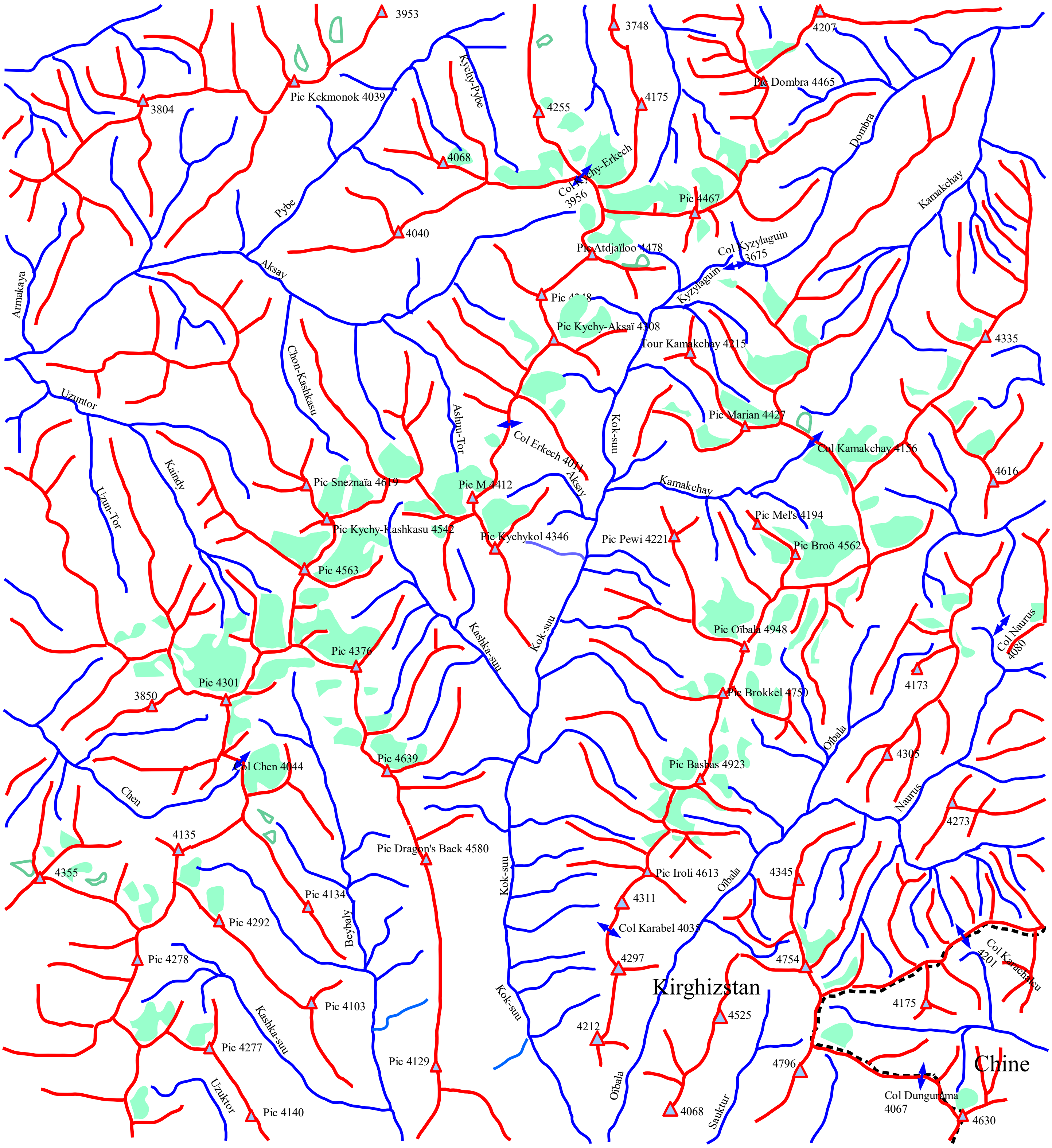
Access to the mountain

The starting point of expeditions in the Alay is often Osh. From here access is via range south, by the highway crossing the Alay on Taldyk pass and then the crossing to the east of the vast Alay valley towards the pass of Irkhestam (China/Kyrgyz border). Before the border, one should keep a track that goes upstream the Kok-Suu river, until its passable term, ranging from one year to another (watch the track can be very difficult, ITMC has almost lost a big truck on it). At the end of the track, it is possible to transport the equipment to the base camp located in the upper course of the Kok-Suu river or that of Oïbala river, a horse's day). The shepherds can rent the horse to portage, but you have to negotiate the price because it can be prohibitive for the country.

Access by the North, North-West may be more problematic because it involves the transition to high altitude passes over 4000 with all the material for the base camp. It first takes the classic M41 road Osh-Sary Tash to the pass of Taldyk, then a few kilometers after Kyzyl-Korgon it turns to the east on the trail of Kychy-Byulelyu, end of the paved road. From there you can either follow the Erkesh valley then Aksay valley toward the Erkesh pass (4014m) or the valley Chen towards the Chen pass (4044 m). Both passes provide access to the upper valley of the Kok-Suu opposite the range of Oïbala. Caution ! Pedestrian way through the Northwest remains to this day a real exploration field.

It is important to bring the access permit to the border areas, checks are mandatory and unavoidable approaching the Chinese border of the pass of Irkhestam.

Cartography. 1/100 000th: k43-126; 1/200 000th: k43-32


3953
3748
4207
Pic Kekmonok 4039
3804
Kychy-Pybe
4255
4175
Pic Dombra 4465
Dombra
4068
Col Kychy-Erkech 3956
Pic 4467
Kamakchay
Pybe
4040
Pic Atdjaïloo 4478
Col Kyzylaguin 3675
Armakaya
Aksay
Kyzylaguin
Pic 4248
Pic Kychy-Aksaï 4308
Tour Kamakchay 4215
4335
Chon-Kashkasu
Uzuntor
Ashuu-Tor
Kok-suu
Col Erkech 4011
Pic Marian 4427
Col Kamakchay 4136
Aksay
Kaindy
Uzun-Tor
Pic Sneznaïa 4619
Pic M 4412
Kamakchay
4616
Pic Mel's 4194
Pic Kychy-Kashkasu 4542
Pic Kychykol 4346
Pic Pewi 4221
Pic Broö 4562
Pic 4563
Col Naurus 4080
Kashka-suu
Kok-suu
Pic Oïbala 4948
Pic 4376
4173
Pic 4301
3850
Pic Brokkel 4750
Oïbala
Pic 4639
4305
Col Chen 4044
Pic Bashas 4923
Chen
Naurus
4273
4135
Pic Dragon's Back 4580
Kok-suu
Pic Iroli 4613
4345
4355
Oïbala
Pic 4134
4311
Beybaly
Col Karabel 4035
Pic 4292
4297
Pic 4278
4754
Col Karachalcu 4201
Kirghizstan
Pic 4103
Kok-suu
4175
4525
Kashka-suu
4212
Pic 4277
4796
Chine
Pic 4129
Col Dungurama 4067
Uzuktor
4068
Oïbala
Sauktur
Pic 4140
4630

Orographic Scheme of Oïbala Range

B.3.7) The Alaykuu range, Far East of Alay range, Sino-Kyrgyz border

Main characteristics

The Alaykuu ridge is located in the extreme northeast of the Alay, along the China/Kyrgyzstan border, upstream from Alaykuu river Valley. The ridge lies south of junction of Ferghana-Torugart-Too ranges, and North East of Terek-Too range. The ice surface seems very limited but further exploratory missions should confirm the fact, only reported by the old topographic maps.

In terms of mountaineering and hiking, there is not much information on the range. One can almost consider that the range is totally devoid of any climb. It culminates at the Peak 4733 m, with no known name.

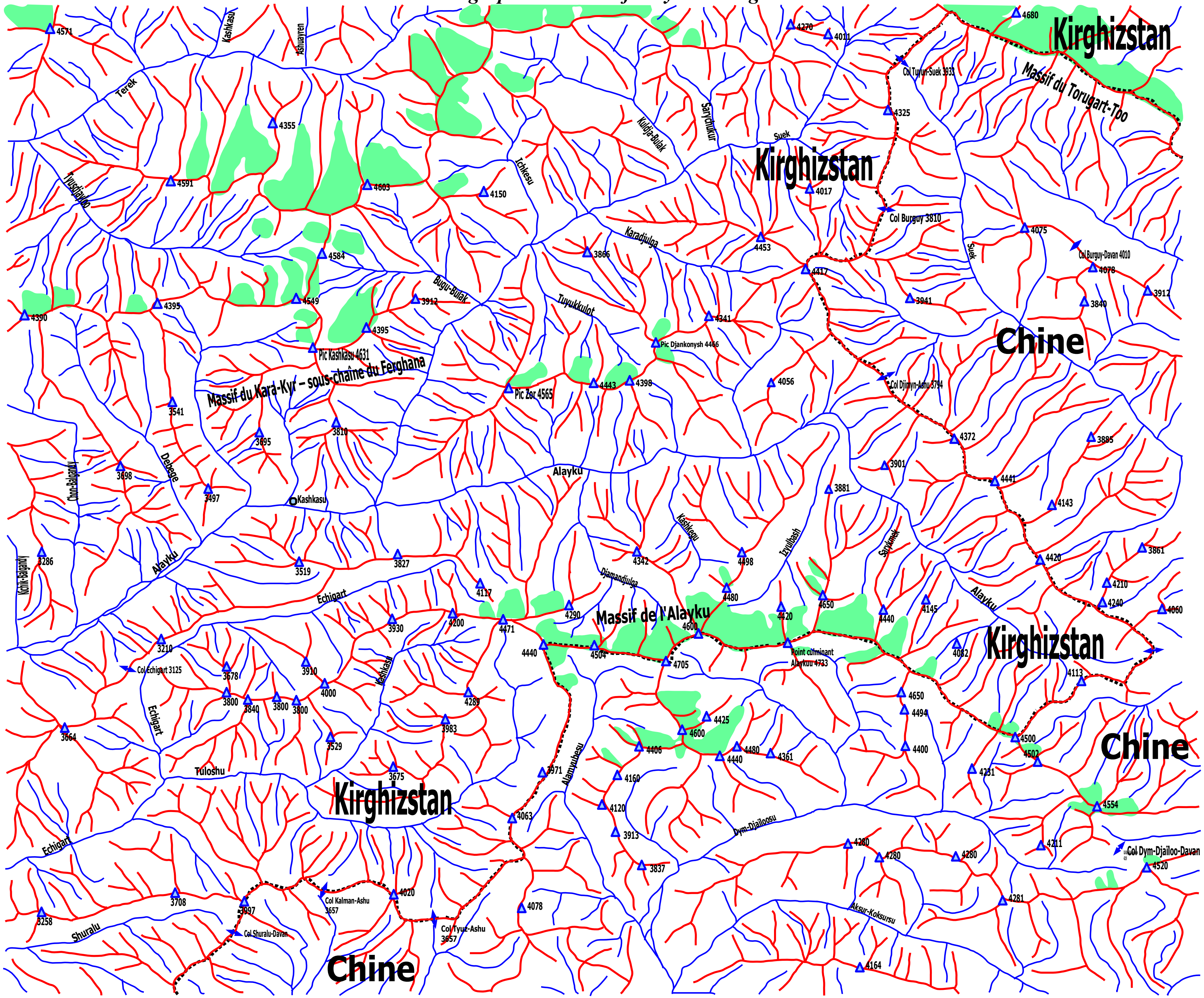
Access to area

Access to border areas of Alaykuu is done from the plains of Ferghana, from Osh and Uzgen, through roads and trails onto the Oytal valley up to the Alaykuu valley and the village of the same name (also referred as Kegart on map) at the confluence of two valleys of Alaykuu to the North-East and Eshigart eastward. One should inquire local people about upstream access of the two valleys, in order to approach more closely the main crest of the range, at the foot of the highest peaks, like Peak 4733 m.

It is important to bring the ***special access permit to border area***, military checks are mandatory and unavoidable approaching the Chinese border**.**

Cartography.1/100 000th: K43-137, K43-138; 1/200 000th: K43-33.

Orographic Scheme of Alaykuu Range


Kirghizstan
Massif du Torugart-Too
Kirghizstan
Chine
Kirghizstan
Chine
Kirghizstan
Chine
Massif du Kara-Kyr – sous-chaîne du Ferghana
Massif de l'Alayku
4571
Kashkasu
Ashuayren
Terek
4355
4591
4603
4150
Tyusdjayloo
4584
4549
4395
4390
4395
3912
Bugu-Bulak
Pic Kashkasu 4631
Ichkesu
Kuldja-Bulak
Sarychukur
Suek
4270
4011
4680
Col Turuk-Suek 3933
4325
4017
Col Burguy 3810
4453
4417
Karadjulga
3866
Tuyukkulot
4341
Pic Djankonysh 4466
4056
3941
4075
Suek
Col Burguy-Davan 4010
4078
3840
3912
Col Djimyn-Ashu 3794
Pic Zor 4565
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4398
3541
3695
3810
3698
Chon-Balgandy
Debege
3497
Kashkasu
Alayku
4372
3885
3901
3881
4441
4143
Kashkegu
Izyulbash
Sarykmek
4342
4498
3286
Kchik-Balgandy
Alayku
3519
3827
4117
Djamandjulga
4480
4650
4420
4440
4145
Alayku
4420
3861
4210
4240
4060
Echigart
3930
4200
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4290
4600
4440
4504
4705
Point culminant Alaykuu 4733
4082
4113
3210
Col Echigart 3125
3678
3910
4000
Kashkasu
4289
3800
3840
3800
3800
3983
3529
3664
Echigart
Tuloshu
3675
4650
4494
4425
4600
4480
4440
4361
4406
4400
4500
4502
4231
3971
Alamyubesu
4160
4120
3913
3837
4063
Dym-Djailoosu
4554
4211
Col Dym-Djailoo-Davan
4520
4280
4280
4280
4281
Echigart
3708
3997
Col Kalman-Ashu 3657
4020
Col Tyuz-Ashu 3657
4078
3258
Shuralu
Col Shuralu-Davan
Aksur-Koksursu
4164

B.3.8) The Terek-Too range, Far East of Alay range, Sino-Kyrgyz border

Main characteristics

The Terek-Too is a long ridge located in the far East of the Alay fully bordering China from North in the vicinity of Alaykuu range, a little further east, until Irkheshtam border post on South (Tuz -Ashu pass at the border Kyrgyzstan-China, 3627 m). This extensive range presents very little glacier complex, especially located in its highest parts. It culminates at the Ytyk Peak 4767 m.

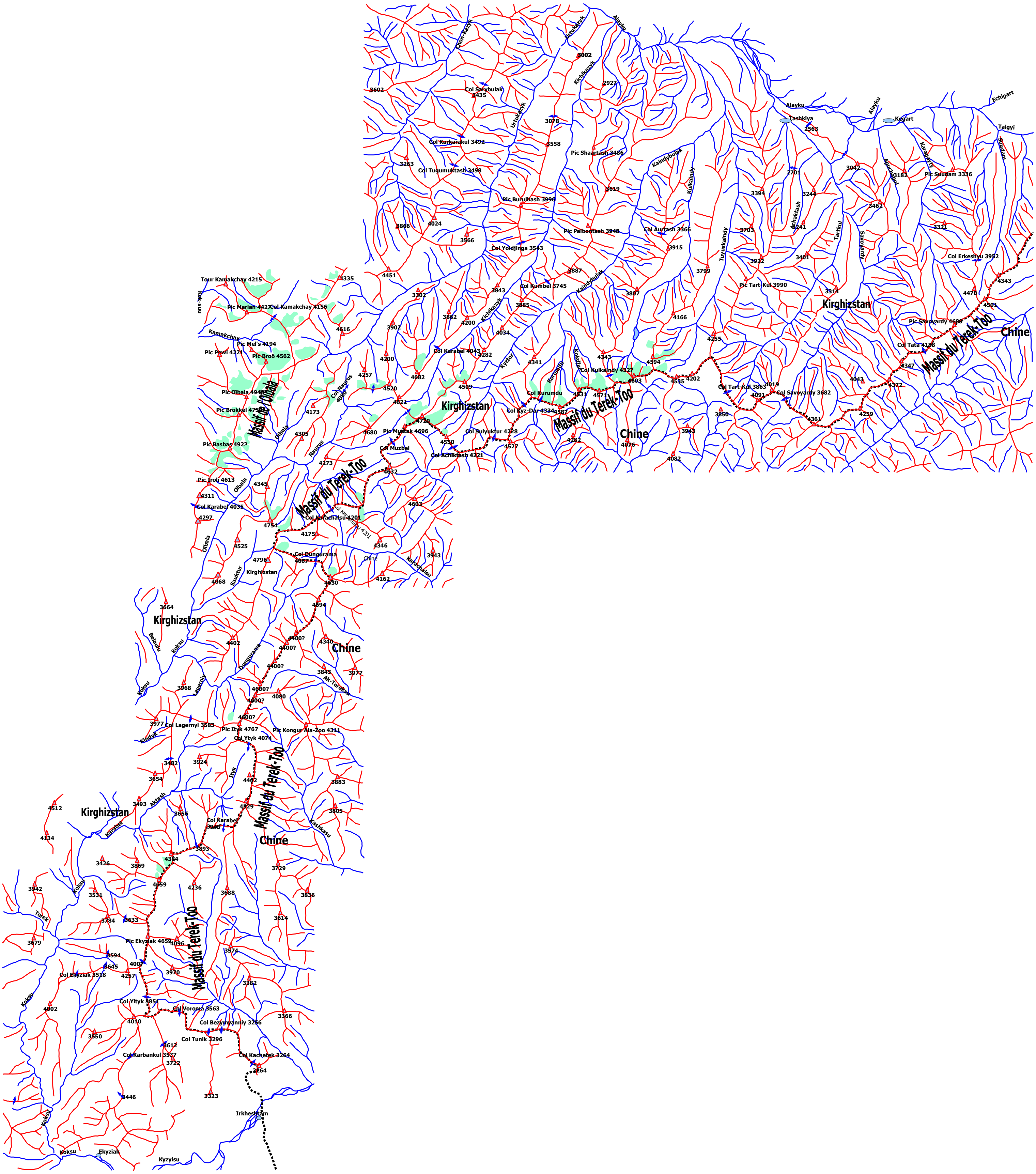
In terms of mountaineering and hiking, there is not much information on the range. One can almost consider that the range is totally devoid of any climb. Because of its vast extension, it presents a wide variety of terrain and probably tough rocky technical surprises, like nearby Oïbala and its cristallin heart, visited in recent years.

Access to area

Access to areas of the North Terek-Too can be done from the plains of Ferghana, from Osh and Uzgen, through roads and trails onto the Oytal valley up to the Alaykuu valley and the village of the same name (also referred as Kegart on map). Access to the southern part is facilitated by the excellent Sino-Kyrgyz road leading to the Irkhestam border post. Access to the central area is identical to the track up towards the Oîbala range: it was the Kok-Suu river to his passable term changing from one year to another (watch out ! the track can be very difficult, ITMC has almost lost a big truck there). At the end of the track, it is possible to transport the equipment to the base camp located updtream the Kok-Suu river or that of Oïbala, on a horse's day). The shepherds can hire horses to carry, but you have to negotiate the price because it can be prohibitive for the country.

It is important to bring the ***special access permit to border area***, military checks are mandatory and unavoidable approaching the Chinese border of the pass of Irkhestam on south as well as central and North borders of Terek-Too area.

Cartography.1/100 000th: J43-004, K43-136, K43-137, K43-138; 1/200 000th: J43-02, K43-33.


Massif du Terek-Too
Massif du Terek-Too
Massif du Terek-Too
Massif du Terek-Too
Massif du Terek-Too
Massif d'Oibala
Kirghizstan
Kirghizstan
Kirghizstan
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Col Sarybulak 3435
Col Karkarakul 3492
Col Tugumuktash 3498
Pic Burulbash 3996
Pic Shaartash 3486
Pic Palbontash 3948
Col Aurtash 3366
Col Yoldjinga 3543
Col Kumbel 3745
Pic Tart-Kul 3990
Pic Suudam 3336
Col Erkeshtu 3952
Pic Savoyardy 4680
Col Tata 4198
Col Tart-Kul 3863
Col Savoyardy 3682
Col Kulkaindy 4327
Col Kurumdu
Col Kyz-Dar 4334
Col Sulyuktur 4228
Col Achiktash 4221
Pic Mustak 4696
Col Muzbel
Col Karabel 4043
Col Nauruz 4040
Tour Kamakchay 4215
Pic Marian 4427
Col Kamakchay 4156
Pic Mel's 4194
Pic Pawi 4221
Pic Broë 4562
Pic Oibala 4949
Pic Brokkel 4758
Pic Basbas 4923
Pic Iroli 4613
Col Karabel 4035
Col Karachatsu 4201
Col Dungurama 4087
Pic Ityk 4767
Col Ytyk 4074
Pic Kongur Ala-Zoo 4311
Col Lagernyi 3583
Col Karabel 3943
Pic Ekyziak 4659
Col Ekyziak 3518
Col Yltyk 3851
Col Voronyo 3563
Col Bezymyanniy 3256
Col Tunik 3296
Col Kachetek 3264
Col Karbankul 3537
Alayku
Tashkiya
Kegart
Echigart
Talgyi
Suudam
Kaindybulak
Kulkaindy
Tuyuskaindy
Chaktash
Tartkul
Savoyardy
Kichikazyk
Urtukazyk
Chon-Kazyk
Kok-suu
Kamakchay
Oibala
Nauruz
Sauktur
Koksu
Belauly
Dungurama
Lagerniy
Ak-Terek
Kindyk
Ityk
Aktash
Karabel
Terek
Kashkasu
Koksu
Ekyziak
Kyzylsu
Irkeshtam
4400?
4600?
3602
3002
2927
3078
3558
3263
3819
3806
4024
3566
2563
2701
3042
3182
3394
3244
3462
3041
3703
3321
3922
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3799
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3843
3885
3862
4200
4034
4282
4166
4255
3314
4470
4501
4343
3302
3902
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4682
4509
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4459
4236
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3784
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3614
3679
4096
3574
3594
3645
4002
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4010
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3446
3323

Orographic Schema of Terek-Too Range

III. Logistics for the mountaineering activity (food, equipment, gas, petrol, transportation, guides, porters and cooks)

Food. There are no problems with food supply to the mountaineering expeditions in Kyrgyzstan. Basically any standard set of ingredients can be easily obtained in the local stores and markets of the country. But there are several things to consider while buying. These will provide you with required food of good quality. All necessary ingredients can be bought in Bishkek which is usually a starting point for most expeditions. It's also Bishkek, as a rule, where you find the best choice, variety and quality. Therefore it's better to stock main ingredients in Bishkek yet something is better to buy on the way to the mountains. Special food for climbers, concentrates, sublimate and long-term food is better to buy in Bishkek. If travel to the expedition destination takes several days, as for example to the Western Kokshal-Too region, then some things especially perishables are worth to buy in towns or villages on the way. First of all, it applies to bread, fruit, vegetables and meat. Most expeditions in Kyrgyzstan are held in the areas of big towns of Karakol, Naryn and Osh. Karakol is a good place to purchase bread, meat and vegetables, however, fruit and tomatoes are better on the way to Karakol in Chui valley. It's convenient to stock with bread and meat in Naryn but the rest is better in Chui valley and Bishkek. Osh offers good selection of fruit, vegetables, meat and bread even fruit and vegetables are cheaper and of better quality than in the north.

Equipment. Mountaineers usually bring their own personal equipment however occasionally some problems occur, such as lost baggage or some items worn out during expedition. There are several outdoor stores in Bishkek where everything necessary can be purchased. The list of the stores is attached. There are no such facilities in other towns of Kyrgyzstan. Cookwares and cooking supplies can also be bought in hunting or sportswear stores but the assortment is usually not very big and often can happen that there is no necessary item. If any special equipment needs to be purchased it's recommended to order it in advance from the store or through the tour operator. In addition, some tour operators can lend equipment such as: tents (high-altitude, base camp, kitchen and dining tents), cooking ware and utensils, satellite phones, USB-stations and etc.

List of equipment stores in Kyrgyzstan

1) "Mountain Pro". Address: 216 Toktogul street, Bishkek, tel.: +996 555 886686
2) Sport Expert. Address: Bishkek, tel.: +996 312 417669, +996 772 530438, +996 772 505644
3) Red Fox. Address: 65 Sovetskaya street, Bishkek, tel.: + 996 312 581371
4) Gergert-sport. Address: 119 Gorkyi street, Bishkek, tel.: + 996 312 541611
5) Elite-sport. Address: 234 Toktogol street, Bishkek, tel.: +996 312 541611

Base camps of the expedition in remote mountains. Kitchen trailer

Base camps of the expedition in remote mountains.

Gas and petrol. These supplies are better to buy in Bishkek. Gas cylinders for stoves (240g and 480g) are quite rare commodity in the equipment stores. Usually this item has to be ordered in advance from the tour operator. Some companies have systems to refill cylinders. One option is to refill used cylinders which will be considerably cheaper than buying new ones. Refilled cylinders are good to use at the altitude below 6,000m – proved with personal experience. Good quality petrol for primus stoves is available only in Bishkek. Also it can be ordered in advance from the tour operator.

***Transportation*.** There are several ways how to get to Kyrgyzstan: by air, by railroad or by car. To get around inside the country is more convenient by car and sometime by air. Most of the mountaineering regions can be accessed only by all-wheel off-road vehicles. Helicopter might be the only option to access some regions of the Central Tien-Shan and Jangart. Walking time to those regions is about 4-7 days. There are several considerations when choosing vehicle, not only roominess but first of all cross-country ability. For instance, sometimes river crossing ability becomes of the main importance (photo 87). The other vital factor is driver's experience in the mountains. For example, there are many river marshes and hillside bogs – saz in local language (photos 83-86). To avoid these traps driver needs an experience but not less important is an experience how to get out of the swamps. It's very important for the vehicle to be equipped with necessary implements for pulling out of marsh. There is not a big amount of off-road cross-country vehicles specially equipped for expeditions in Kyrgyzstan. This type of transportation and experienced drivers are available only at few tour operators. It pays to make an advance booking of the transport. You can see reliable vehicles for mountaineering expeditions on the pictures below.

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Transport for remote mountaineering areas of Kyrgyzstan

Transport for mountaineering expeditions

Mountaineering transport through mountains, forests, steppes and rivers

List of Kyrgyz companies experienced in providing travel services in mountains, with good reputation and infrastructure

1. Tien-Shan ITMC, director Vladimir Komissarov. Address: 1-a Molodaya Gvardia street, Bishkek. Tel.: +996 312 651404, E-mail itmc@elcat.kg, www.itmc.centralasia.kg, itmc.travel
2. Kyrgyz Alpine club E-mail : alpclub-kg@mail.ru, www.kac.centralasia.kg
3. Top Asia, director Valeryi Denisov. Bishkek. Tel.: +996 312 666218, E-mail topasia@mail.kg , http://www.topasia.kg/en
4. Asia Mountains, director Sergey Dudashvili. E-mail: office@asiamountains.net, http://asiamountains.net/en
5. Lenin Peak, E-mail:info@leninpeak.net, https://leninpeak.net
6. Aksai Travel, director Elena Kalashnikova. Address: 65 Sovetskaya street, Bishkek. Tel.: +996 312 581371, 583343, E-mail: info@ak-say.com
7. Edelweiss, director Slava Alexandrov. E-mail edelweiss@elcat.kg
8. Mountain Project, director Pasha Vorobev. Address: 216 Toktogul street, Bishkek. E-mail: info@helipro.kg, Pablo@rambler.ru , http://helipro.kg
9. Karakol Travel Service (provider of services in Central Tien-Shan), director Anatolyi Priteev, Karakol. Tel.: +996 3922 25034 www.kts.centralasia.kg
10. Naryn Travel Service (provider of services in Naryn region), director Mairash Asylbekova. Address: 40 Lenin street, Naryn. Tel.: +996 555 799984, E-mail naryntravel@mail.ru www.nts.centralasia.kg
11. MC Pamir, director Vadim Khaibulin, E-mail info@leninpeak.net , http://www.leninpeak.net
12. Kyrgyz land, E-mail travel@kyrgyzland.com, dsasha@ , elcat.kg, http://kyrgyzland.com

Mountain rivers crossing. Challenges happen with strong cross country vehicles sometime: KAMAZ stuck in the mud. GAZ66 drowned in a river during a crossing.

Staff for mountaineering Expedition (mountain guides, porters, managers, cooks)

Mountain guides. When hiring mountain guide in Kyrgyzstan one should be very careful not to be guided by an untrained person. Nowadays everyone in Kyrgyzstan can call himself a guide and offer guiding service. There are no law regulations to control work of a mountain guide. How to find information about mountain guides? First of all, the main source is the Association of Mountain Guides of Kyrgyzstan (AMGK or KMGA). This organization also trains and certifies mountain guides. The list of certified mountain guides with contacts is attached. Also this information can be found on the Association web site mentioned in attachment as well. The Association also trains and certifies mountain guides in accordance with UIAGM-IFMGA standard though it's not the member yet (AMGK has been a probationary member of UIAGM-IFMGA since 2010, and is a full member since 2017) and also Association developed its own standards. Only trainers who hold UIAGM-IFMGA carnet are training guides according to the proper standard. And the local guides who took UIAGM-IFMGA standard training are qualified to train in accordance with Association standard. The latter standard was a bit lower than UIAGM-IFMGA before 2017 and was the most qualified training available in Kyrgyzstan. Nowadays it offers international standards of UIAGM-IFMGA . If the guide you are planning to work with, doesn't hold AMGK certificate it is worth to request for the references from other clients or from AMGK first. The list of certified mountain guides with contacts is here http://mguide.in.kg/en/guides.

List of certified mountain guides in Kyrgyzstan (2011)

Mountain guides, postgraduate according to IFMGM-UIAGM standard:

1) Artur Usmanov, porter_in_kg@mail.ru
2) Pavel Vorobev, Pablo@rambler.ru
3) Semen Dvornichenko, semen_3d@mail.ru
4) Michel Danichkin, travel@kyrgyzland.com d-sasha@elcat.kg
5) Andrei Erohin, aclimber84@rambler.ru
6) sergei Seleverstov, sky_alp@mail.ru
7) Oleg Turaev slon,_e@mail.ru
8) Victor Afanasev, gouphill@v-afanasiev.com
9) Vladimir Komissarov, vk8@mail.ru , itmc@elcat.kg

Mountain guides certified by KMGA (Association of mountain guides of Kyrgyzstan) with guiding experience and continuing education with the second student intake of the School of mountain guides KMGA:

10) Igor Moskin , igor@mail.kg
11) Dmitryi Pavlenko, ala-archa@inbox.ru
12) Maxim Cherkasov, snowbaording8@mail.ru
13) Kerim Aktaev, aktaev@gmail.com

Students of the second intake of the School of mountain guides KMGA with guiding experience:

14) Yaroslav Nikotin, yarik8806@rambler.ru
15) Rustam Radjapov, visotnik@bk.ru
16) Ruslan Radjapov, ruslanradjapov@yandex.ru
17) Petr Seduhin, petr-sed@rambler.ru
18) Dmitry Teplov, dimonteplov@mail.ru
19) Alexandr Ilin, ili-aleksandr@mail.ru
20) Gregory Kochetkov, alppro@gmail.com
21) Elena Shavkunova, le24z@mail.ru

22) Andrey Shevzov, shev-andrei@rambler.ru
23) Andrey Petrov, wwwpetrov@mail.ru
24) Anastasya Yaxno, primavera_kg@yahoo.com
25) Denis Savelev, ddr@inbox.ru
26) Ivan Moshnikov, ivanmoshnikov@rambler.ru
27) Marat Ishakov, phobos137@gmail.com
28) Tatyana Levina, tatyana_lev@rambler.ru

Association of Mountain guides in Kyrgyzstan http://mguide.in.kg

Porters and horses. Porters can be hired only in Bishkek or Karakol. Also during the season number of porters is based in the area of Lenin peak. If you are going to any region other than Lenin peak you have to transport porters from Bishkek or Karakol. You can hire porters only through specialized tour operators or through the Karakol Association of porters. In addition, hiring directly at Lenin peak base camp can be more expensive than doing such through the agency. The same is with horses for transporting loads from BC to ABC and return. As learned from previous experience it’s frequently more reliable and cheaper to hire porters and horses through the agency and tour operators manging base camp in Achik-Tash.

Expedition and base camp managers. It’s better to prepare expedition with the specialized tour operators as they have necessary experience, take responsibility and value their good name. Usually expedition manager is very important stuff member for solving different organizational issues during expedition. As a rule the issues include supplying, cooperation with authorities and military (at the border posts), providing communication, guarding campsite and stuff management. Often a manager position is combined with other stuff – mountain guide, driver, porter or cook. If there is a local mountain guide in expedition then frequently he performs the duties of the manager. However if there is no guide then the most experienced stuff member can manage the expedition.

Cooks. Not every good chef can cook in field conditions. Special experience is required. It’s more reliable to hire cook for expedition through the specialized tour operator.

IV. Search and Rescue in mountains, Assistance and insurance, emergency contacts in Kyrgyzstan

Search and rescue. The Ministry of Ecology and Emergency Situations in Kyrgyzstan is responsible for search and rescue works. The works are carried out by the Emergency Response Unit, nowadays called “Rapid Respnse Team”, who are servicemen of the national Army. The organization is more directed for different disasters – earthquakes, floods, landslides, avalanches and so on. The main drawback is that soldiers don’t posses necessary knowledge and experience for rescue in the mountains in certain conditions of difficult montain terrain. But if there is no any other possibility for search rescue operation, the organization gives a chance. Contact information of the Ministry rescue service is in the Appendix.

In addition to the state rescue service, there is private organization, which is responsible for rescue in mountains, the Public Fund “Rescue in the mountains” has been in operation since 1994 (before 2008 had the name of LLC Tien-Shan RTM). The Fund runs rescue works in the mountains at any altitude and routes, renders medical aid during and after rescue and also provide with repatriation. The Fund has no permanent staff but has agreements with experienced climbers and mountaineers with special skills. Participation of the experienced rescuers in search and rescue works is guaranteed by the high salary the professionals during the works. ***The only necessary condition to run rescue is the guaranty of payment***. Without the guaranty rescue operations will not start. ***An advance contract with rescue organization, relevant and coorect insurance, assurance of a bank or any other solvent organization can be the guaranty of payment (usually not less than 30 000€ of total charges guaranty)*** . The Fund has obtained accreditation of the Ministry of Ecology and Emergency Situations in accordance with the Kyrgyz Legislation and is entitled to carry out rescue operations. The contact information of the Fund is in appendix and were published also in the web site : http://rescue.centralasia.kg/ .

Third possibility for rescue operation is temporary rescue teams, which are established by tour operators or public mountaineering groups to insure the safety of the own projects and activities. The rescue teams can participate in rescue missions of the other organizations.

"Assistance". There is an assistance organization "Assistance Kyrgyzstan" arranging and rendering medical, legal, transportation, translation, rescue and other aid for foreigners in emergency situations. This organization is listed in the international data bases of assistance companies. The contact information of the organization is attached.

Insurance. Usually insurance policy is arranged by mountaineers themselves. But, if necessary it is possible to arrange insurance in Kyrgyzstan. The Found and Kyrgyz Alpine Club are agents of the insurance company. Info and conditions of insurance is here http://rescue.centralasia.kg and here https://kac.centralasia.kg. Total coverage of the insured event for rescue works in the mountains should not be less than Euro 30,000. It should be not less than Euro 10,000 for medical aid and not less than Euro 5,000 for liability. Size of insurance coverage amount bases on the price of hiring helicopter for rescue works. You should take into consideration, that not any insurance policy is accepted. Rescue organizations published "black list" of the insurance companies, which policies are not accepted. Usually it is easy to find this list on the websites.

Emergency contacts (in case of unforeseen and emergency situations)

List of phones for foreigners in case of emergency situations. (info on Bishkek, Osh, Karakol, Naryn)

1. Accident in the mountains, the need for search and rescue work
  1) Ministry of Emergency Situations
    161 – Rescue service in Bishkek
    112 – Coordination centre all over the Kyrgyzstan
    Operations officer in Bishkek city - +996 770 334401
    Osh town - +996 770 229522
    Karakol town - +996 770 334000
    Naryn town- +996 770 822250
  2) Public Foundation " Rescue in the mountains"
    +996 312 651404
    +996 312 651221
    Phones 24/7:
    +996 700 651221
    +996 701 799925

2. Medical assictanse
  First aid (public, private)
    Bishkek city –a) public +996 103 b) private- +996 312 595 627
    Osh town - a) public +996 103 b) private - +996 551 004 659
    Karakol town - a) public +996 103 b) private - +996 3922 20579
    Naryn town- a) public +996 103 b) private - +996 3522 21570
  Private clinics
    Bishkek city - +996 312 595 627
    Osh town - +996 557 587 785
    Karakol town - +996 3922 50787
    Naryn town- +996 3522 52640

Public clinics
Bishkek city - +996 312 443 908
Osh town - +996 0555 967 887
Karakol town - +996 3922 52201
Naryn town - +996 3522 50411

3. Frontier troops (Border Guard Service)
Bishkek city - +996 312 881 618
Osh town - +996 3222 22059
Karakol town - +996 3922 56199
Naryn town - +996 3522 50726

V. Travel formalities in Kyrgyzstan (Visa regulation and registration. Permits to border areas)

Visa regulation and registration. Regulations of stay in Kyrgyzstan for foreign citizens are defined by the act of Kyrgyz Republic "On external migration"and some Decisions of Kyrgyz Government. In accordance with the law, visa and registration are not required for citizens of the countries mentioned in below.

Tab. Visa regulations and registration condition for citizens of different countries (2018), (see also http://www.mfa.gov.kg)

Visa regulation	Registration conditions
CIS countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan and Ukraine up to 90 days of stay and citizens of Uzbekistan up to 60 days.	It is not required to register international passports holders within 60 days and citizens of Kazakhstan and Russia within 90 days after crossing the national border.
Visa-free regime is valid for citizens of the following countries who entry / exit or stay on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic for up to 60 days: Australian Union, The Republic of Austria, The Kingdom of Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, The Vatican, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Hungary, The Federal Republic of Germany, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Greece, The Kingdom of Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Kingdom of Spain, The Italian Republic, Canada, Republic of Korea, The State of Kuwait, The Republic of Latvia, The Republic of Lithuania, The Principality of Liechtenstein, The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, The Republic of Malta, Principality of Monaco, New Zealand, The Kingdom of Norway, The United Arab Emirates, The Republic of Poland, The Portuguese Republic, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, The Republic of Singapore, Slovak Republic, The Republic of Slovenia, United States of America,. The Republic of Finland, France, The Republic of Croatia, Czech Republic, Swiss Confederation, The Kingdom of Sweden, The Republic of Estonia, The State of Qatar, The State of Brunei, The Kingdom of Bahrain, Japan, Malaysia (for 30 days), Mongolia (for 90 days), Turkey (for 30 days)	It is not required to register international passport holders within 60 days after crossing the national border.
Citizens of the following countries can obtain Kyrgyz visa by personal request without visa invitation letter: Republic of Albania, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, United Mexican States, Kingdom of Thailand, Principality of Andorra, State of Israel, Romania, Republic of the Philippines, Argentine Republic, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of San Marino, Republic of Chile, Republic of Bulgaria, Republic of Cyprus, Republic of Serbia, Montenegro, Federative Republic of Brazil, Republic of Macedonia, Sultanate of Oman, Central African Republic, Islamic Republic	Citizens of foreign countries have to arrange registration according to the place of staying within 5 working days after the day of arrival in Kyrgyz Republic.

Visa regulation	Registration conditions
of Iran	
Visa regime (visa and visa invitation are required) in Kyrgyzstan is valid for citizens of the following countries: Islamic Republic of Pakistan, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Republic of India, Republic of China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, Turkmenistan, Republic of Colombia, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Taiwan, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Visa support (invitation letter) can be provided by the local tour operators	Citizens of foreign countries have to arrange registration according to the place of staying within 5 working days after the day of arrival in Kyrgyz Republic

E-Visa. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan has elaborated e-Visa portal to facilitate visa issuance process for genuine travelers. Electronic visa application form does not require more information than traditional paper application and it gives the same right to enter Kyrgyzstan territory as ordinary sticker-visa in the passport. Applying for a visa through this portal has lots of advantages. There is no need to make an appointment or present original documents to the Embassy or Consular Office. All you need is internet connection, credit or debit card for making payment and scanned copies of your documents. Your travel document must be valid for at least 6 months from the date you intend to enter Kyrgyzstan. Travelers have possibility to obtain a short-term visa without visiting embassy or consular office of the Kyrgyz Republic, following two simple steps: applying and making online payment.

More information is here http://www.evisa.e-gov.kg

Permits to the border areas (zones). (BZ) In accordance with the Kyrgyz law there is a special border regime in the border zones of Kyrgyzstan. Special permit is required to enter the territory and is given by the authorized organizations. Border zone area is from 10,000 m to 50,000 meters in the mountainous and sparsely populated areas. Permission is regulated by the Statute on the border regime in the frontier of the Kyrgyz Republic approved by the government decree of the KR #362 on May 15, 2004. Foreign citizens obtain entry and stay permits for BZ in the Interior Ministry and Border Patrol of the Kyrgyz Republic. Permits for foreign citizens can be obtained also by the legal entities or private entrepreneurs, in this case tour operators. The following information of the person entering BZ is needed: 1) full name; 2) date of birth; 3) passport number, date of issue and expiration; 4) place of residence or registration; 5) citizenship; 6) date of entry and duration of stay in the border zone.

Emergency in case of criminal case

1) *The Interior Ministry of Kyrgyzstan (police)*
    Rapid Response Service (police) number 102
    Call center of the State Department of Internal Affairs (SDIA): (+996 312) 683713
    Passport and visa department of SDIA: (+996 312) 285936
    Foreign citizens department of SDIA: (+996 312) 285538
    Interior Ministry call center: (+996 312) 684266, 662331
    Passport and visa control department of SDIA: (+996 312) 662329
    Helpline of SDIA: (+996 312) 683002, 683004
    Foreign citizens department of SDIA in Osh: (+996) 3222 56429
    Call center of DIA in Karakol town (Issik-Kul oblast): (+996) 3922 54550
    Call center of DIA in Naryn town: (+996) 3522 50921
    Call center of DIA in Osh oblast: (+996) 3222 56429
    Call center of DIA in Batken town: (+996) 3622 50024
    Call center of DIA in Djalal-Abad town: (+996)722 51346
    22/254

2) The Prosecutor's Office
Bishkek city - +996 776 628899
Osh town - +996 3239 26276.
Karakol city - +996 3922 30001
Naryn - +996 3522 51564.
3) Legal assistance
Bishkek city - +996 312 547593
Osh town - +996 3222 44363.
Karakol town - +996 778 393 554
Naryn town - +996 772 693073

The Emergency Response Unit of the Ministry of Ecology and Emergency Situations: Sadovoe village, Chui oblast, Kyrgyz Republic, (+996) 3131 52944, fax: (+996) 3131 607719; call center: 101, (+996) 800 222 2222

Contact details of Diplomatic missions in Kyrgyzstan are listed in the Appendix 2.

Appendices.

Appendix 1. List of mountain ranges of Kyrgyztsan and Orographic maps of mountaineering regions

Appendix 2. Diplomatic missions in Kyrgyzstan.

Appendix 3. Useful links.

Appendix 4. Price-list of services for 2016.

Appendix 5. Cartographic System

Appendix 1. List of mountain ranges of Kyrgyztsan and Orographic maps of mountaineering regions

Mountain Ranges of Kyrgyzstan

Mountain Ranges of Central Tien-Shan

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	Longitudinal E Latitudinal N
Adyr-Ter or Adyrtor	4550	4400		34	8	North Sarydjaz	Long E : 79.7760305556 Lat N :42.3223622222
Ak-Shyyrak	5125	4700		60	28	South Terskey Ala-Too	Long E :78.2905910568181 Lat N :41.8606524033394
At-Jayloo	4477	4200		36	9	South Engilchek, East Sarydjaz	Long E :79.1953312960509 Lat N :42.0399675947694
Ashuu-Ter (or Katta Ashuu-Tor)	5437	5000	Peak Odinadcan	32	15	Terminal ridge between Terskey Ala-Too and Saydjaz	Long E :79.9680397 Lat N :,42.4166521
Kayingdy or Kaindy-Katta	5784	4900	Peak Krasnoy Armiy (Red Army)	78	14	South Engilchek, East Sarydjaz	Long E :79.7797559030389 Lat N :42.0611080006279
Kokshaal-Too	7439	4500	Peak Jengish Chokusu (kyrgyz), or Pobeda (russian) or Tomur Feng (chinese)	582	54	Bordering China from Peak of Military Topographers to South of Kerpe-Too	Long E :80.141226 Lat N :42.0354297
Boz-Kyr		4500		38	7	Eastern Part of Kokshaal-Too comprising Peak Pobeda ending at Sarydjaz mouth in China, naming Kum-Aryk	Long E :80.141226 Lat N :42.0354297
Tengri-Tag or Kan-Too	6995	6000	Khan Tengri	38	9	Separating North and South basins of Engilchek Glacier	Long E :80.1655562314291 Lat N :42.2072732691421
Jangart	5318		Peak After-You			South-East of Sarydjaz river	Long E :78.8460786974053 Lat N :41.6907810161776
Keykap or Kuykap	5109	4000	Peak Sovietskaya	18	7	South Engilchek, East Sarydjaz, little range, side of Kaindy-Katta beetween Bulumtor and Kaindy river	Long E :79.54719 Lat N : 42.03526
Keolyu or Kuilyu	5281	4600	Peak Konstitutsiya	52	21	South Terskey Ala-Too, West Sarydjaz, East Ak-Shyyrak	Long E :78.9055262697329 Lat N :42.0494416288789
May-Bash-Too	5361	4900		22	16	South Engilchek, East Sarydjaz	Long E :79.6434274052275 Lat N :41.8866746692836
Meridianalnyi	6800	5000	Peak Druzhba (Friendship)	22 (in Kyrgyzstan)	40	Bordering China, North of Kokshaal-	Long E :80.2713529219194 Lat N :42.1563780311307

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	Longitudinal E Latitudinal N
						Too	
Sarydjaz	5816	4730	Peak Semenov	93 (in Kyrgyzstan)	16	North Engilchek, South-East Terskey Ala-Too	Long E :79.32501032547 Lat N :42.1917202016191
Terekti	4930	4400		48	11	West of Sarydjaz river South of Kyulyu between river Terekti on North and Uchkul on south	Long E :78.6389238275316 Lat N :41.9708062558804
Engilchek-Too	5722	5100	Peak Shokal'skiy	60	12	South of Engilchek	Long E :79.7153196664336 Lat N :42.1173676625265
Eshekart or Ishigart	4384	4200		50	12	West of Sarydjaz river South of Terekti, East of Ak-Shyyrak between river Uchkul (North) and Ak-Shyyrak (South), separated from Ak-Shyyrak by Ishigart Pass 3963	Long E :78.5809515853885 Lat N :41.8573468701387
Ushat-Too	5142					East of Sarydjaz, south of At-Djayloo	Long E :79.2217793583805 Lat N :41.928985492211

__Mountain Ranges of North Tien-Shan__

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	Longitudinal E Latitudinal N
Arpa-Tektir	3208-3776	2800		25	9	South of Talas Valley, side range of Talas Ala-Too	Long E :72.8624905 Lat N :42.3527094
Trans-Ili Ala-Too	4973	3700	Peak Talgar	120 (in Kyrgyzstan)	30	Kazakh-Kyrgyz Border, North of Issyk-Kul lake	Long E :77.3559614 Lat N :43.0637895
Kalba-Too ou Kolba-Too	4146	3400		25	14	Side range toward North from the Talas Ala-Too	Long E :72.4926736 Lat N :42.4060958
Kara-Jylga	2463	2100		28	7	North of City of Talas	Long E :72.2387547 Lat N :42.6135841
Kastek	2782	2700		32 (in Kyrgyzstan)	10	East of Tokmak, North of Chuy Valley along the Kazakh-Kyrgyz border	Long E :75.8544159 Lat N : 42.9438578

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	Longitudinal E Latitudinal N
Kemin ou Chon-Kemin	3884	3100	Peak Alamyudyun	36	10	East of Kungey Ala-Too, North of Issyk-Kul lake, Chon-Kemin valley	Long E :76.1432874 Lat N :42.8447921
Kyrgyz Ala-Too	4895	3700	Peak Semenov Tianshanskogo	454	40		Long E :74.4964069 Lat N :42.4431038
Kuru-Ayryk	3609	3500		26	9	Side range toward North from the Talas Ala-Too, near Besh-Kul pass	Long E :72.1116019 Lat N :42.1975176
Kyzyl-Ompol or Kyzyl-Ombyl	3183	2900		20	13	Between Kyrgyz Ala-Too and Issyk-Kul lake	Long E :75.9580229 Lat N :42.3887761
Kyumyushtak	4251	3100	Peak Kyumyushtak	36	18	Side range of Talas Ala-Too, East of Kara-Buura Pass	Long E :71.7985637 Lat N :42.2759849
Kyungey Ala-Too	4770	4200	Peak Chok-Tal	285	32	Directly North of Issyk-Kul lake	Long E :77.7603605 Lat N :42.9170659
Ok-Torkoy	3125	3000		30	7	North of Kyrgyz Ala-Too, East of Chuy river	Long E :75.6401825 Lat N :42.6112223
Ortok-Too or Orto-Too	2501	2300	Peak Shumkar	35	8	Near the city of Talas, between Talas Ala-Too and Kyrgyz Ala-Too	Long E :72.7562968 Lat N :42.4952638
Sary-Jon ou Ortok	3230	2500			30	East of Karamanyok Range, south of Eastern Kyrgyz-Ala-Too	Long E :75.36758 Lat N : 42.29711
Talas Ala-Too	4482	3900	Peak Manas	260	40	South-West of Kyrgyz Ala-Too joining Pskem Sandalash, Maydantal and Chatkal range	Long E :71.8872494 Lat N :42.1277215
Echkili-Too	2160	1700		42	9	East of Talas City, Talas Valley	Long E :71.8503867 Lat N :42.6330657
Koshoy-Too	3921	3100		36	8		Long E : Lat N :
Karagatty		2310	Peak Semenov	93 (in Kyrgyzstan)	16		Long E : Lat N :

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	Longitudinal E Latitudinal N
Kylak Bulak		3000		32	7		Long E : Lat N :

Mountain Ranges of Inner Tien-Shan

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	Longitudinal E Latitudinal N
Ak-Shyyrak	4037	3400		40	10	East of Ferghana, North of Jaman-Too, south of Moldo-Too	Long E :74.4135475416799 Lat N :41.3334583713155
Ala-Myshyk	3378-3399	3200		20	5	Upper hills immediately South-West of Naryn City, first of a straight line with Karacha-Too, Kara-Too and Baybiche-Too	Long E :75.9011 Lat N :41.40346
At-Bashi	4788	4300		140	30	Central, South of Kyrgyzstan, Chatyr-Kul lake	Long E :75.7578312669808 Lat N :40.9620646316912
Acha-Tash or Akcha-Tash or Ak-Chyy-Tash	3975			36	13	Eastern part and side range of Moldo-Too turning south-east, near Boor-Albas, Korgo and Ytelgi-Uya crests	Long E :75.54199 Lat N : 41.58309
Baybiche-Too	4337	3900		140	13	South-East of Naryn city, rigde lying north of Jaman-Too	Long E :74.9318972 Lat N :41.0643253
Baydulu and Kapka-Tash	4146	3800	Peak Onarcha	46	11	East of Song-Köl-Too, West part of Baydulu-Kapka-Tash range	Long E :75.8212432 Lat N :41.7880157
Bauk	3388	3000	Peak and Pass Chetindi	28	8	Side range to the South-west of Moldo-Too, South of Song-Köl lake and Boor-Albas	Long E :75.1334631536163 Lat N :41.5954448841692
Boor-Albas	3788	3700	Peak Itelgi-Uya	20	10	North-West of Naryn, North, North of Bauk, bordering South of Issyk-Kul lake, near Akcha-	Long E :75.19483 Lat N : 41.709

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	Longitudinal E Latitudinal N
						Tash, Korgo, Ytelgi-Uya crests	
Borkoldoy-Too	5170	4500	Peak Jagalmay	90	34	East of Naryn City facing Western Kokshaal-Too on Noth, West of Jany-Jer	Long E :77.6223368229346 Lat N :41.2863633865389
Jaman-Too	4737	4000		70	16	East of Central Ferghana range	Long E :74.6145583 Lat N :40.9034973
Jany-Jer	4844	4000		104	17	South-East corner of Naryn-Too, West of Borkoldoy-Too	Long E :77.161637506134 Lat N :41.2436762124372
Jetim-Bel	4627	4200	Peak Seok or Suyek	102	12	South of Central Terskey Ala-Too	Long E :77.6842692 Lat N :41.7655373
Jetim	4896	4300		120	24	South-West of Jetim-Bel, South of Uch-Emchek	Long E :77.0294066 Lat N :41.5521433
Jumgal-Too (Jumgal-Too-Kara-Moynok range)	4281	3800	Peak Kara-Moynok	54	15	Eastern part Jumgal-Too-Kara-Moynok range, south of Kyrgyz-Ala-Too	Long E :74.2331782 Lat N :42.1729271
Ytelgi-Uya	3812	3600		20	6	South of Song-Köl lake and East of Boor-Albas	Long E :75.3099 Lat N : 41.70931
Western Kokshaal-Too	5982		Peak Dankova	120	30	Bordering China south of Borkoldoy-Too and Karagermes depression	Long E :77.6802 Lat N : 41.06175
Kabak-Too	4144	3400		40	16	East of Sary-Kamysh, North of Moldo-Too	Long E :74.4855497 Lat N :41.741447
Kapka-Tash and Baydulu	4146	3500		40	10	South of Kara-Goman and Kara-Jorgo, East part of Baydulu-Kapka-Tash range	Long E :76.4913923735871 Lat N :41.7233201013269
Karagatty ou Kara-katty and Kyzart	3805	3600		24	7	East part of Kara-katty-Kyzart group, south-West of Kochkor city, south-east of Kyzart pass,	Long E :75.2376305 Lat N :42.0468635

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	Longitudinal E Latitudinal N
						immediately north of Song-Köl-Too	
Kara-Jorgo	3933	3600		66	12	South-West of Terskey Ala-Too, West of Kara-Koman	Long E :76.0779779833783 Lat N :41.842603868209
Kara-Kaman ou Kara-Goman	4343	3900		56	14	South-West of Terskey Ala-Too, East of Kara-Jorgo	Long E :76.728516060994 Lat N :41.821969319353
Kara-Koo-Junay or Kyrgo-Junay	2881	2700		10	7	East part of Tegerek range, south-West shore of Issyk-Kul lake, joining Tegerek, Kyzyl-Moynok crest	Long E :76.37214 Lat N : 42.14915
Kara-Kyr	4497	4150		22	4	Extreme Central-South of Kyrgyzstan, bordering China, West of Kerpe-Too	Long E :75.6725650699077 Lat N :40.3906589835998
Kara-Kyungey	3880	3370		22	7	Side range of Western Terskey Ala-Too near Kara-Kyungey village, south of Issyk-Kul lake	Long E :76.1234 Lat N : 42.14075
Kara-Moynok (Jumgal-Too-Kara-Moynok range)	4281	3850	Peak Kara-Moynok	64	16	Western part Jumgal-Too-Kara-Moynok range, south of Kyrgyz-Ala-Too	Long E :74.8216095 Lat N :42.3088911
Kara-Too	4066			26	6	South-West of Naryn city, lying in straigh line with Baïbiche-Too range	Long E :75.5314779 Lat N :41.2987235
Karacha-Too	3564	3100	Peak Karacha	20 5	6	South-West of Naryn city, lying in straigh line with Kara-Too, Baïbiche-Too range	Long E :75.7418 Lat N : 41.34769
Kekkirim-Too	4351	3800		60	38	North-East of Ferghana range, West of Moldo-Too	Long E :73.6246972481407 Lat N :41.5764503279083
Kek-Kyya, Sary-Beless	4960	4500		20	14	South-West of Western Kokshaal-	Long E :76.625818452

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	Longitudinal E Latitudinal N
						Too, bordering China. Sary-Beless at the west	7946 Lat N :40.7889093888977
Kerpe-Too	4552	4200		36	18	South of Sary-Beless, joning Extreme-Western Kokshaal-Too	Long E :76.2938216636583 Lat N :40.4744693508632
Kyzart and Karagatty ou Kara-katty	4400	3800		30	16	West part of Kara-katty-Kyzart group, south-West of Kochkor city, immediately north of Song-Köl-Too	Long E :75.2376305 Lat N :42.0468635
Moldo-Too	4185	3630		110	26	East of Suusamyr-Too and South of Song-Köl lake	Long E :74.6357226 Lat N :41.6263102
Naryn-Too	4499	4200		120	18	Directly East of Naryn city	Long E :76.3863774809504 Lat N :41.3643514241868
Nura	4460	3900		45	24	Directly North-East of Naryn city, West of jetim range	Long E :76.2629014486081 Lat N :41.6262397982711
Oy-Kayyng	4273	3800		36	20	South of Jumgal-Too	Long E :74.4428565 Lat N :42.090972
Sandyk	3947	3600		50	12	Between Suusamyr-Too and Oy-Kayyng,south of Suusamyr depression	Long E :74.08767 Lat N : 42.03909
Sary-Kamysh	4042	3800		39	17	South-East of Suusamyr-Too	Long E :74.0752389926913 Lat N :41.8429655810408
Songköl-Too	3990	3600		82	9	Bordering North of Songköl lake	Long E :75.1686791344985 Lat N :41.9664372310164

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	Longitudinal E Latitudinal N
Suusamyr-Too	4048	3500		126	31	South of Kyrgyz-Ala-Too, West of Talas Ala-Too	Long E :73.7551233 Lat N :41.9861148
Taktalyk	3908	2900		54	6	South-East of Toktogul reservoir, North of Ferghana range	Long E :73.17478 Lat N :41.62185
Tastar-Ata	3847	3250	Tastar-Ata	24	4	Near Bokombaeva, South-East, south shore of Issyk-Kul lake	Long E :77.17844 Lat N : 42.04865
Tegerek	3017	2820		20	5	Between of Issyk-Kul lake and Western Terskey Ala-Too	Long E :76.2712 Lat N : 42.18477
Terskey Ala-Too	5216	4300	Peak Karakol	354	40	South of Issyk-Kul lake	Long E :77.2085421003262 Lat N :41.9548147093459
Torugart-Too	5108	4500		64	20	South-West of Chatyr-Köl lake, West of Torugart pass	Long E :75.1096958642802 Lat N :40.4711089886969
Ukek	4356	4000		30	20	South of Issyk-Kul lake, West of Terskey Ala-Too	Long E :75.8666263 Lat N :42.0290806
Ulan	4542	4100		56	7	Eastern part of Naryn-Too near Ulan pass	Long E :76.9371408240779 Lat N :41.3692420786855
Uch-Emchek	4467	3920	Peak Chymchyk	54	18	Immediately south of Central Terskey Ala-Too, east of Barskaun pass	Long E :77.4757904373311 Lat N :41.8651435133181
Chaar-Tash	3532	3300	Peak Chaar-Tash	20	6	Continuous line West of Ak-Shyyrak 4037	Long E :74.06295 Lat N :41.23651
Chakyr-Korum	4558	4300		30	8	South of Djetim Range, form a equilateral triangle with Borkoldoy-Too and Jany-Jer	Long E :77.41653 Lat N : 41.44581

Mountain Ranges of Western Tien-Shan

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	
Alash-Too	3574	2800		20	8	West of Babash-Ata, East of Tash-Komur City	Long E :72.69721 Lat N : 41.33119
At-Oynok or Atoynok	3896	3300		70	16	Directly West of Toktogul	Long E :72.62237 Lat N : 41.75799
Babash -Ata	4427	3500	Peak Babash-Ata	54	8	North-West of Ferghana Range	Long E :72.91128 Lat N : 41.41132
Bozbu-Too	2875	2500		30	14	North of Ferghana valley, near Karavan city	Long E :71.8626 Lat N : 41.49494
Jalgyz-Kyr or Djagyz-Kyr	2605	1800	Peak Kek-Saray	20	5	North of Ferghana Valley, North of Karavan City, North-West of Bozbu-Too	Long E :71.73248 Lat N : 41.61287
Kuturgan	2517-2425	1830	Peak Kyaz-Bulak	24	5	Side range of Ferghana, East of Siyreon-Tebe, North-East of Djalal-Abad	Long E :73.56307 Lat N : 41.0545
Isfan-Jayloo	3701	3040		34	6	East of Kenkol range, South of Toktogul	Long E :72.8112 Lat N : 41.59233
Kara-Kyr	4634	3930	Peak Kashka-Suu	36	12	Side range of South-East-Ferghana toward East, near Torugart-Too Junction, North of Alaykuu river Valley	Long E :74.47425 Lat N : 40.42499
Kardy-Too or Kyrby-Too	4129	3400		31	7	North-East part of Ferghana, just North of Babash-Ata	Long E :72.80364 Lat N :41.51166
Kachura	4497	3900		34	10	Side range from South-East Ferghana (Near Uch-Zend), between Uzgen and Kulun range, North of Kulun Lake	Long E :74.45846 Lat N : 40.57954
Kenkol	3754	3400	Peak Alyampacy	26	5	North-West corner of Ferghana range, south of Taktalyk	Long E :73.21804 Lat N :41.52939
Kek-Suu	3828	3200	Peak Chatyr-Debe	60	15	Parallel to the Pskem Range, forming Ouzbekh/Kyrgyz border, near Burchmulla village	Long E :70.32623 Lat N : 41.63751,

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	
Kochkor-Dobo	2534	1800	Peak Ak-Tash	21	6	South shore of Toktogul reservoir	Long E :72.77069 Lat N : 41.69778
Kulun	4593	3900		30	10	Side range of South-East-Ferghana toward East, near highest Uch-Zend peak	Long E :74.39872 Lat N : 40.51066
Kuramyn- Kek-Ala	3769-3876	2690	Peak Bobochob (3769, Tadjikistan), Peak Kek-Bet (3876, Kek-Ala, Kyrgyzstan)	30	25	Where Chatkal comes to Uzbek/Kyrgyz Border, Kuramin surround Ahangaran Plateau to the East	Long E :70.57136 Lat N :41.09125
Pskem	4395	3950		120	20	Form Uzbek-Kyrgyz border on along the Pskem river valley	Long E :70.92395 Lat N : 42.03858
Seruyun-Dobo ou Siyreon-Tebe	2469	2210		30	12	Small range Immediately North-East of Djalal-Abad City	Long E :73.31245 Lat N : 41.08348
Suuk	2991	2300		22	6	Along the Naryn River Canyon half distance between Toktogul reservoir and Ferghana Valley, West Side, North of Tash-Komur	Long E :72.38273 Lat N :41.61428
Ters ou Kumbel	3890	3300	Peak Boz-Bokchu	30	16	Between Kek-Suu and Chatkal, Charvak reservoir area	Long E :70.52793 Lat N : 41.5768
Toguz-Bulak	3277	2600		20	7	Side range of Kenkol toward South-West, East of Babash-Ata	Long E :73.27846 Lat N : 41.43629
Uzgen	4381			56	26	Side range from Ferghana West of Uzgen City	Long E :73.97094 Lat N : 40.7202
Uzun-Akmat	4165	3100		40	14	Side range from Talas Ala-Too lying North-West of Toktogul reservoir	Long E :72.21588 Lat N : 42.03093
Ferghana	4893	3600	Peak Uch-Zend	206	62	Wide range from Toktogul reservoir to Torugart-Too, from North-West to South-East, bordering Ferghana valley	Long E :74.06707 Lat N : 40.9436
Chandalash ou Sandalash	4114	3660		72	10	Between Pskem, West-Side and	Long E :71.18865

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	
						Chatkal East-Side	Lat N : 41.97684
Chatkal	4503	3800		165	30	Lying North-East, South West bordering Ferghana valley on North-West	Long E :71.41937 Lat N : 41.7375,
Chong-Boor-Too	3907	3200		42	10	Side range from South-East Ferghana, south of Uzgen range, North of Kulun range	Long E :73.98536 Lat N : 40.60404
Sargardon	3761			34	13	Between Kek-Suu and Chatkal, Charvak reservoir aera	Long E :70.3712 Lat N : 41.48414
Donguz-Too	2354	2200		28	6		Long E : Lat N :
Kadoo		1990		20	6		Long E : Lat N :
Sary-Jon	3344	2220		24	5		Long E : Lat N :
Chaar-Tash	3143	2500		20	7		Long E : Lat N :

__Mountain Ranges of Southern Tien-Shan__

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	
Adygine-Too or Andygen-Too	3852 or 3758	3200		30	6	North of Turkestan, East of Vorukh City, between mouth of Lyalak and Karavshin Valleys	Long E :70.26786 Lat N : 39.80246
Ak-Tash,Turkestan	3806	3400		20	9	Foothills of western part of Kyrgyz Turkestan, bordering south of Ferghana Valley	Long E :69.4499 Lat N : 39.67046
Ak-Ter or Ak-Tur	4501 or 4533	3800		50	11	East Alay, South-East of Osh City, East of Akbura valley, East of Kichik-Alay, South of Taldyk	Long E :73.09959 Lat N :40.05573
Akun-Too	4070	3400		21	5	Directly East of Vorukh city	Long E :70.82722 Lat N : 39.82145
Alay (Tandykul area)	5539	4500	Peak Tandykul	350	20	South of Ferghana Valley, central part on Kyrgyzstan territory	Long E :71.08222 Lat N : 39.45263
Almaly	1935	1790		20	6	Foothills of Turkestan range, North of Isfana	Long E :69.57298

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	
						village	Lat N :39.88998
Daud ou Dauda	4149	3600		21	6	Foothills of Turkestan, south of mouth of Karavshin valley, south of Vorukh village	Long E :70.46081 Lat N : 39.74626
Kara-Bel (Askaly area)	5621	4700	Peak Skalistyi	20	9	Junction between Turkestan, Alay and Zeravshan, south of Ferghana valley, lateral range	Long E :70.70285 Lat N : 39.62552
Katyrang-Too or Katrang-Too	3375	3000		44	8	South-West of Ferghana Valley and City, foothills of Turkestan-Alay range	Long E :71.57798 Lat N : 40.07649
Kekche-Too	2583	2300		21	6	Foothills of Turkestan range, south of Isfana village	Long E :69.5819 Lat N : 39.76051
Kichik-Alay (Gezart area)	4933	3600	Peak Gyzart	78	20	Sub range of Central Alay range	Long E :72.3841 Lat N : 39.86178
Kollektor (Talkysh area)	5259	4400		55	15	Dugoba River Valley, North of Central Alay area, south of Chakhimardan village	Long E :71.78192 Lat N :39.81381
Kuruk-Say	5147	4100		31	5	South of Sokh Village, North Western Alay, West of Kollector	Long E :71.33766 Lat N : 39.76632
Taldyk-Suusamyr	4237			26	7	East Alay, South-East of Osh City, East of Akbura valley, East of Kichik-Alay, North of Ak-Tur	Long E :73.10646 Lat N : 40.11851
Tekelik (Aydarbek area)	5127	4410	Peak Aydarbek	27	12	Central Alay, area of Abramova Glacier, East, West of Daraut-Kurgan	Long E :71.63223 Lat N : 39.64112
Teskey	3690	3400		27	9	Foothills of West-Alay range, near Sokh village, South of Khaidarkan, North of Kuruk-Say	Long E :71.33457 Lat N : 39.86811
Turkestan (Pyramida area)	5509	4430	Peak Pyramida	300	30	South of Ferghana Valley, western part on Kyrgyzstan territory	Long E :69.75614 Lat N : 39.58597
Tuyuk-Suu	4549	4000		32	16	East Alay, North of Sary-Tash, and Taldyk pass	Long E :73.15452 Lat N :39.86205
Uluu-Too or Kara-Chatyr	1635	1000	Peak Uluu-Too	30	9	Foothills South-West of Osh City	Long E :72.3587 Lat N :

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	
							40.38512
Chil-Ustun	1459	1320		20	5	Hills on the Ferghana Valley, East of Osh City	Long E :72.541 Lat N : 40.53937
Oïbala	4948			Peak Oïbala		Eastern part of Alay range	Long E :73.89129 Lat N :40.07754
Kek-Bulak or Kokbulak	4039	3600	Peak Kekmonok	22	7	North-West of Oibala Range	Long E :73.784 Lat N : 40.23229
Alaykuu	4733	4200		100	15	Far Eastern Alay, along China/Kyrgyz border, onto Upper Alaykuu Valley, South of Ferghana-Torugart-Too junction, North-East of Terek-Too	Long E :74.78118 Lat N : 40.35112
Terek-Too (Ytyk)	4767	4000	Peak Ytyk	60	3	Eastern Alay, North of Alay valley, along Kyrggyz-China Border, North of Irkheshtam pass	Long E :73.90434 Lat N : 39.91342
Tokhtabuz or Takta-Buz	2650	2500		28	5	Foothills of Eastern Kyrgyz Turkestan, front of Andygen-Too, South of Ferghana Valley	Long E :70.15388 Lat N : 39.96922
Kek-Bel	5127	4090		22	5	Lateral range of Turkestan, immediately West of Kara-Bel	Long E :70.62595 Lat N : 39.65539
Keldyuk-Too or Kukdun-Too	5016	4190		31	7	South-West of Kuruk-Say, internal range on Central-Alay	Long E :71.25007 Lat N : 39.71824
Teke-Cekirdi-Bel ou Teke-Cekirdi	2913	2490		20	6	West of Shahimardan Uzbek enclave, West Alay foothills, North-West of Dugoba Valley, comprise also Chyval-too, Kara-Davan and Kursala crest south and Bely-Mazar on north. South of Katrang-Too	Long E :71.58828 Lat N : 39.98474
Chakan-Chash or Chakan-Tash	4323	3490	Peak Tong-Zoo or Tonzoy	21	8	Side range West of Ferghana and North of East Alay, South-East of Uzgen, East of Oytal river mouth	Long E :73.9215 Lat N : 40.48873
Olokon-Too or Alakan-Too	4060	3000		34	10	North of the group Taldyk-Suusamyr, South of Osh, East of Kum-Bel range	Long E :73.06165 Lat N : 40.19198
Kum-Bel	4000	3440		21	8	Directly south of Gulcha, village on the road to Peak Lenin,	Long E :73.32927 Lat N :40.1605

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	
						North of Ak-Tur , one of the foothills range of Alay, South of Osh	
Bali-Synyk or Bely-Synyk	1571	1200		26	11		Long E : Lat N :
Kyrk-Karakchy	2272	1900		22	5		Long E : Lat N :
Uu-Saz	2614	2400		26	10		Long E : Lat N :
Sary-Tash	3093	2800		20	8		Long E : Lat N :
Gauzan	3273	2600		24	6		Long E : Lat N :
Yaruntus	3670	3200		23	7		Long E : Lat N :
Ak-Changyl	4044	3500		32	10		Long E : Lat N :
Joo-Jatty	4048	3100		20	9		Long E : Lat N :
Ming-Teke ou Minteke	5127	3500		28	8	Lateral ridge oriented North-South, area of Matcha Node, separates Djiptyk and Minteke, valleys, south of Dauda mountains	Long E : Lat N :
Ak-Tash, Alay	4249	4100		20	1	Matcha Node area, joining orographically the Turkestan range, ridge East of Skalistyi Peak, oriented West-East, contains lateral crests : Tok-Tash, Djyltyk and Talaa	Long E : Lat N :
Akademik-Adyshev	4745	3300	Peak Akademik-Adyshev	110	50		Long E : Lat N :

Mountain Ranges of Pamir-Alay

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	
Achyk-Tash	5920	4600		21	6	Side range of of Trans-Alay toward North, West of Ledyanoy Mys, North-East of Lenin Peak	Long E :72.96844 Lat N : 39.4102
Trans-Alay	7134	5200	Peak Lenin	250	40	South of Alay valley, comprise three area Western, Central and Eastern Alay	Long E :72.87411 Lat N : 39.34677
Kek-Tumshuk ou Ledyanoy Mys	5459	4640	Peak Ledyanoy Mys	26	10	Side range of of Trans-Alay toward North, East of Achyk-Tash, West of Kyzyl-Art pass	Long E :73.11195 Lat N : 39.46323
Putoo or Butoo	4139	3510		22	5	South of Karamyk village small side	Long

Name	Maximum height, m	Average Altitude	Highest peak	Length of range, km	Width of Range, km	Area, sub-range	
						range of Western Trans-Alay, between Kyzyl-Suu and Shybez rivers	E :71.76801 Lat N : 39.36124

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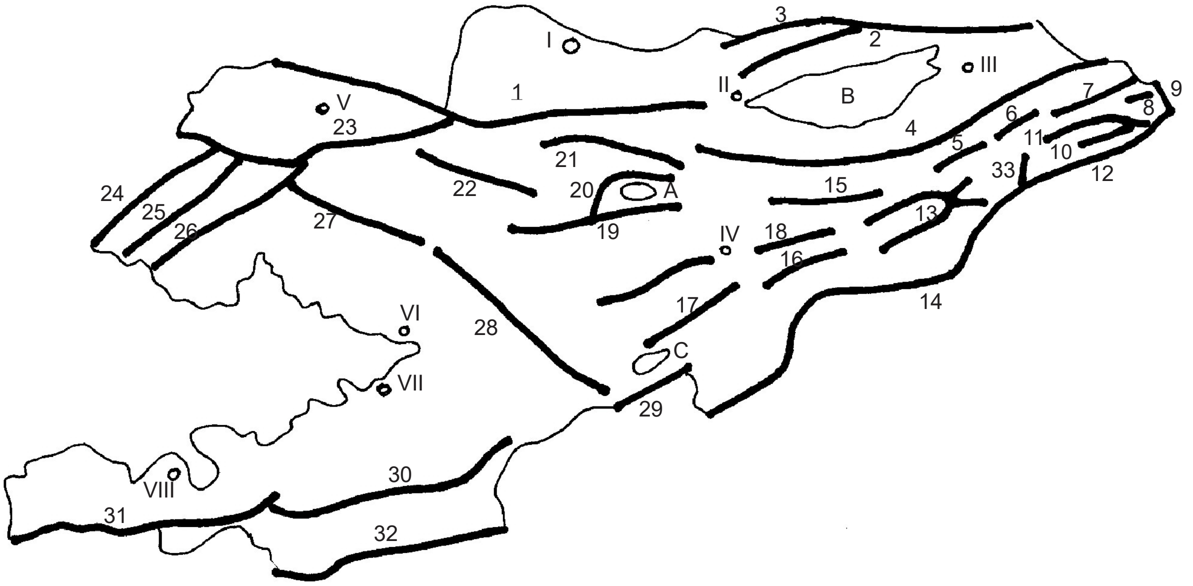
2. [Atlas of Kyrgyz Republic] (in Russian). Bishkek: Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyz SSR. 1987. p. 156.
3. [Kyrgyz Republic Encyclopedia] (in Kyrgyz). Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republik. 1990. p. 187-188.



Appendix 1. Figure 1. Orographic map of main mountain ranges in Kyrgyzstan

Mountain Range	**Mountain Range (next)**	**Main cities and localities**
1. Kyrgyz Ala-Too	17. At-Bashi Range	I. Bishkek
2. Kungey Ala-Too	18. Naryn-Too Range	II. Karakol
3. Trans-Ili (Zailiskiy) Ala-Too	19. Moldo-Too Range	III. Balykchy
4. Terskey Ala-Too	20. Sonkul-Too Range	IV. Naryn
5. Akshyyrak Range	21. Jumgal-Too Range	V. Talas
6. Kuilu Range	22. Suusamir Range	VI. Jalalabad
7. Sarydjaz Range	23. Talas Range	VII. Osh
8. Tengri-Tag Range	24. Pskem Range	VIII. Batken
9. Meridionalnii Range	25. Sandalash Range	
10. Kaindy Range	26. Chatkal Range	
11. Engylchek Range	27. Atoinok Range	
12. Kokshaal-Too Range	28. Ferghana Range	
13. Borkoldoy Range	29. Torugart-Too Range	
14. Western Kokshaal-Too Range	30. Alay Range	
15. Jetim Range	31. Turkestan Range	
16. Jany-Jer Range	32. Pamir, Trans-Alay (Zaalayskiy) Range	

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47	Kingdom of Morocco	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Hasan Hami	228,2, H. Alieva str., Nassimi district, Baku, 1078, Republic of Azerbaijan Phone: +994 125 96 51 30 Fax: +994 124 80 25 42 e-mail: sifamtatr@tr.net

NR	Country	Name	Address
48	The United Mexican States	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Luis Ortiz Monasterio	41, Golfam str., Africa avenue, Tehran, 19156, Islamic Republic of Iran +98 21220 575 90Fax +98 **Ten:.**2122057589 e-mail: embamex@embamexiran.org www.embamexiran.org
49	Republic of Moldova Honorary consulate	Honorary consul Mr. Vladimir Dudin	49, Turusbekov str., Bishkek, 720001, Kyrgyz republic Phone+996 312 31 01 72, 31 02 32 Fax +996 312 31 02 32 e-mail: dudinv@yandex.kg
50	Mongolia	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Haraavch Ayurzan	1, Musabaeva str., Almaty, 050043, Republic of Kazakhstan Phone.: +7 7272 69 35 36,69 35 70 Fax: + 7 7272 58 17 27, 29 37 90 e-mail: info@mongemb.kz
51	Nepal	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Surya Kiran Gurung	1417, 2nd Neopalimovskiy pereulok, Moscow, 119121, Russian Federation Phone +7 495 244-02-15 Fax +7 495 244 00 00
52	The Kingdom of Netherlands Honorary consul	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Frans Jacob Potuyt Mrs. Yelena Yun	62, Kosmonavtov str., 3rd floor, micro district Chubary, Astana, republic of Kazakhstan Phone. +7 7172 55 54 50 Fax. +7 7172 55 54 74 96, Tynystanov str., 12 office., Bishkek, 720000,Kyrgyz Republic Phone. +996 312 69 05 65 Fax +996 3112 69 02 28 e-mail: dutchconsulate@elcat.kg www.netherlands-embassy.kz
53	New Zealand	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Ian Alexander Hill	44, Povarskaya str., Moscow, Russian Federation Phone. +7 495 956 35 79, Visa Post 956 26 42 Fax.+7 495 956-35-83, Visa Post 232 01 80 e-mail: nzembmos@umail.rul
54	The Kingdom of Norway	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Dag Malmer Halvorsen	12 micro district "Samal", 17th floor, Business center "Astana Tower", Astana, 010000, Kazakhstan Phone. +7 7172 55 11 00 Fax: +7 7172 55 11 99 e-mail: emb.astana@mfa.no www.norvegia.kz
55	Sultanate of Oman	CHARGE D'AFFAIRES Mr. Said bin Ali Al- Amri	Noovostroitelnaya str., micro district "Chubary", Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan Phone. +7 7172 24 18 61, 24 18 62,241864 Fax: +7 7172 24 18 63

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56	Republic of Pakistan	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Tanveer Akhtar Khaskheli	37, servo str., Bishkek, 720040, Kyrgyz Republic Phone. +996 312 37 39 01, 37 39 02, 37 39 03, 37 39 04 Fax +996 312 37 39 05 e-mail: paperbishkek@aknet.kg
57	State of Palestina	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Asad Abdul Mounem	19, Konstituciya str., 100070, Republic of Uzbekistan . Phone +998 71254 94 18, 215 30 Fax +998 71254 4148 e-mail: pal-embassy@yahoo.com , alasad~asad@hotmail.com www.palestineuzbek.com
58	Republic of Poland	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Jacek Kluczkowski	15, Sary-Arka str., Business centre "Isker", Astana, 010000,Republic of Kazakhstan Phone +7 7172 90 10 11, 90 10 14 Fax. +7 7172 90 10 12 e-mail: amb@poland.kz www.astana.polemb.net
59	Portuguese Republic	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Pedro Nuno Bartolo	113, Botanichesky str., Moscow, 129090, Russian Federation Phone: +7 495 981 34 10 Fax +7 4959813416 e-mail: embptrus@moscovo.dgaccp.pt
60	Russian Federation	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Valentin Vlasov	55, Manas avenue, Bishkek, 720001, Kyrgyz Republic Phone +996 312 61 09 05, 61 08 61 14 32, 61 02 94, 61 04 73 Fax: +996 312 90 33 84 e-mail: rusemb@saimanet.kg www.kyrgyz.mid.kg
61	Romania	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Emil Rapcea	15, Sary-Arka str.,Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan Phone +7 7172 28 62 01 Fax. +7 7172 28 62 03, 28 60 44 e-mail: amb@rom.ricc.kz
62	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	CHARGE D'AFFAIRES Mr. Marai B. Alderbas	503, Frunze str., Bishkek, 720040, Kyrgyz Republic Phone +996 312 32 48 30, 32 48 81 Fax +996 312 32 48 79
63	Embassy of the Republic Serbia	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Ms. Elica Kuryak	46, Mosfilmovskaya str., Moscow 119285, Russian Federation Phone +7 495 147 42 21, 147 41 Fax +7 495 937 96 15 e-mail: ambasada@co.ru
64	Syrian Arab republic	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Ghazi Abdul Razak	4, Mansurovsky pereulok, Moscow, 119034, Russian Federation Phone +7 495 203 15 21,203 15 28 Fax +7 495 956 31 91

NR	Country	Name	Address
65	Slovak Republic	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARYAstana, Mr L'ubomir Rehak	13, Tanbalytas str., micro district " "Karaotkel-2', 010000, Republic of Kazakhstan Phone +7 7172 56 37 90 Fax +7 7172242048 e-mail: emb.astana@mzv.sk www.mzv.sklastana
66	Republic of Slovenia	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Ada Philipp Slivnik	1411, Malaya Dmitrovka, Moscow, 127006, Russian Federation Phone +7 495 737 33 98Fax. +7 495 200-15-68 e-mail: vmo@gov.si www.gov.si
67	Republic of Tajikistan	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Asomuddin Saidov	36, Kara-Darinskiy str., Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic Phone 51-14-64,5125 87 Fax 5123 43 e-mail: tjemb@ktnet.kg
68	Republic of Turkey	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. NejatAkcal	89, Moskovskaya str., Bishkek, 720040, Kyrgyz Republic Phone +996 312 62-23-54, 62- Fax +996 312 66 05 19, 661458 e-mail: biskbe@infotel.kg
69	Republic of Uzbekistan	CHARGE D'AFFAIRES Mr. Nazarov Rakhmatulla	213, Tynystanov str., Bishkek,720040, Kyrgyz Republic Phone +996 312 66 20 65 Fax:+996 312 66 44 03 e-mail: uzbembish@elcat.kg www.uzbekistan.kg
70	Ukraine	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Vladimir Solovey	201, Ahunbaev str., Bishkek, 720044, Kyrgyz Republic Phone + 996 312 25 17 68, 54 70, Fax. +996 312 25 17 80 e-mail: embassy@ukr.gov.kg www.mfa.gov.ua
71	Republic of Philippines	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Jesus Yabes	Sector F 612, str., #26, Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan Phone +95 51265 36 80 Fax: +95 51265 36 65
72	Finland	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Mikko Kinnunen	17th floor, "Astana Tower" Business centre, 12, microdistrict "Samal", Astana, 010000, Republic of Kazakhstan Phone: +7-7172-44-21-21 Fax: +7-7172-44-21-16
73	French Republic	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Thibaut Fourriere	113, Bokonbaev str., Bishkek, 720040, Kyrgyz Republic Phone +996 312 30 07 11, 30 07 12, Fax. +996 312 30 07 13 e-mail: france.kg@gmail.com

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75	Czech Republic Honorary consul	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Bedrich Kopecky Mr. Igor Onishenko	6, Sary-Arka, Astana, 010000, Republic of Kazakhstan Phone +7 7172 66 04 72, 66 04 Fax +7 7172 66 0142 152, Sydykov str., Bishkek, 720010, Kyrgyz Republic Phone: +996 312 66 13 29 Fax:+996 312 62 13 77 e-mail: bishkek@honorary.mzv.cz
76	Switzerland	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mrs. Anne Bauty	Tupic Y., Shota Rustaveli str., Tashkent, 100070, Republic of Uzbekistan Phone +998 71 120 67 38 67 40 Fax. +998 71 120 62 59 e-mail: tas.vertretung@eda.admin.ch www.eda.admin.ch
77	Sweden Honorary consul	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Ms. Hans Olsson Mr. Nurlan Mamyrov	Ministry of Foreign Affairs-KS, Gustav Adolfs torg, 1 10339, Stockholm, Kingdom of the Sweden Phone +46 8 405 34 32Fax +46 8 723 11 76 e-mail: ud- ksa@foreign.ministry.se office # 407,114, Chui avenue, Bishkek, Kyrgyz republic Phone +996 312 62 70 10, 62 70 08 Fax +996 312 66 10 49 e-mail: abb@elcat.kg
78	The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri-Lanka	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Jayalath Weerakkody	F 614, 2 C, str., #55, Islamabad, Islamic republic of Pakistan Phone +92 51-282-87-23, 282 87 282 87 35Fax +92 51282- 87-51 e-mail: srilanka@dsl.net.pk
79	Republic of south Africa	CHARGE D'AFFAIRES Mr. Jurgens Young	611, Kabanbay batyr avenue, 17th floor, business center "Kaskad", Astana, 010000, Republic of Kazakhstan phone + 7 7172 92 53 26, 92 53 27, 92 53 28 Fax +7 7172 92 53 29 e-mail: astana@foreign.gov.za
80	Japan	AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY Mr. Shin Maruo	16, Razzakov str., Bishkek, 720033, Kyrgyz Republic Phone+996 312 32 53 87, 32 54 Fax +996 312 32 54 08 e- mail: embJp@infotel.kg www.kg.emb-Japan.go.Jp

Appendix 3. Useful links

Pamir-Alay (Karavshin, Lyaylak ,etc) http://mountains.tos.ru/~amal.htm
Tien-Shan (Central, Ala-Archa, etc) http://mountains.tos.ru/~iensh.htm
Mountains of Kyrgyzstan http://kyrgyzmount.narod.ru/
Bishkek Mountaineering Federation http://mountain.in.kg/
Glaciers of Kyrgyzstan http://www.allkyrgyzstan.com/kyrgyzstan/nature/glaciers
Mountains of Kyrgyzstan and other http://www.pugachev.kg/
Maps of Pamir-Alay region http://pamir-alay-map.narod.ru/Maps/index.html

Appendix 4. Price-list of services for 2016

Prices are given in USD. Discounts and special prices for groups are available during low season.

1. Transportation
2. Rent of expedition equipment
3. Accommodation – hotels, yurts, apartments
4. Formalities
    A. Visa and visa support
    B. Permits to the border zones of Kyrgyz Republic

1. Transportation

Main roads transport				
	Passenger car	Minivan “Delica” 4WD	Passenger van	Bus
Passenger Seats	3 passenger seats	5 passenger seats	12 passenger seats	45-50 passenger seats
Standard transfers				
Airport “Manas” – Bishkek	$ 25	$ 35	$ 40	$ 110
Bishkek, per 1 hour (minimum 3 hours)	$ 8	$ 10	$ 12	$ 50
Bishkek, whole day (9 hours)	$ 40	$ 55	$ 60	$ 190
Bishkek – Ala-Archa national park – Bishkek, 45 km	$ 55	$ 70	$ 75	$ 190
Bishkek – Almaty, 250 km	$ 160	$ 200	$ 220	$ 700
Bishkek – Almaty airport, 275 km	$ 180	$ 220	$ 230	$ 750
Bishkek – Son-Kul lake (via Kochkor village)	-	$ 260	$ 290	-
Bishkek – Karakol, 400 km	$ 230	$ 310	$330	$ 800
Bishkek – Torugart checkpoint, 550 km (2 days)	-	$ 430	$ 450	$ 1650
Bishkek – Osh, 710 km	$ 390	$ 550	$ 590	-
Osh airport – Osh	$ 20	$ 30	$ 35	-
Osh, per 1 hour (minimum 3 hours)	$ 9	$ 11	$12	-
Osh, whole day (9 hours)	$ 40	$ 65	$ 70	-
Osh – Irkeshtam checkpoint, 285 km	-	$ 295	$ 350	-
Osh – Achiktash (Lenin BC), 300 km	-	$ 275	$ 290	-
Osh – Karavshin canyon, 350 km	-	-	$ 385	-

Off-road transport

	Jeep, 4WD	KAMAZ, 6WD	URAL, 6WD	GAZ-66, 4WD	UAZ-452 “Tabletka – Pill” 4WD
Passenger Seats	3 seats	22 seats	19 seats	16 seats	7 seats
Standard transfers					
Airport “Manas” – Bishkek	$ 40	$ 100	$ 100	$ 80	$ 35
Bishkek, per 1 hour (minimum 3 hours)	$ 10	-	-	-	-
Bishkek, whole day (9 hours)	$ 60	-	-	-	-
Bishkek – Ala-Archa national park – Bishkek, 45 km	$ 75				
Bishkek – Almaty, 250 km	$ 210	$ 460	$ 460	$ 360	$ 220
Bishkek – Almaty airport, 275 km	$ 230	$ 530	$ 530	$ 420	$ 220
Bishkek – Son-Kul lake (via Kochkor village)	$ 290	$ 670	$ 670	$ 530	$ 310
Bishkek – Karakol, 400 km	$ 340	$ 750	$ 750	$ 590	$ 350
Karakol – Maidaadyr valley, 165 km	-	-	-	$ 310	$ 220
Karakol – Kuilu gorge, 600 km **	-	$ 1520	$ 1520	$ 1200	$ 720
Bishkek – Western Kokshal-Too range **	-	$ 1425	$ 1425	$ 1125	$ 675
Bishkek – Torugart checkpoint, 550 km	$ 450	$ 1030	$ 1030	$ 820	$ 490
Bishkek – Osh, 710 km	$ 585	-	-	-	-

Rent a car

Vehicle	Passenger seats	Road USD / km	Mountain road USD / km	Off-road USD / km	Demurrage *** USD / day
Passenger car	3	$ 0.23			
NIVA, 4WD	3	$ 0,30	$ 0,50	$ 0,6	$ 35
Jeep, 4WD	3	$ 0,42	$ 0,60	$ 0,8	$ 50
Minivan “Delica” 4WD	5	$ 0,40	$ 0,60	$ 0,8	$ 50
Passenger van	12	$ 0,42	$ 0,45	-	-
Bus	45	$ 1,10	-	-	-
KAMAZ, 6WD	22	$ 0,95	$ 1,30	$ 1,9	$ 95
URAL, 6WD	19	$ 0,95	$ 1,30	$ 1,9	$ 95
GAZ-66, 4WD	16	$ 0,75	$ 1,20	$ 1,5	$ 70
UAZ-452 “Tabletka – Pill” 4WD	7	$ 0,45	$ 0,70	$ 0,9	$ 50

Notes: Prices are valid for the transport rented from Bishkek. Return mileage to Bishkek is included.
* Price includes eco fee and covers driver’s expenses.
** Tentative price, you’ll be charged by the actual mileage
*** Mileage less than 120 km a day will be charged as demurrage.
There is an eco fee for entering Ala-Archa national park (canyons Ak-Sai, Adygene, Ala-Archa). It is 60 soms per person (apx $1.5)

2. Rent of expedition equipment and gear

Item	Price in USD	Notes
Kitchen utensils	$ 7 / per / day	
Two burner gas stove	$ 30 / 20 days expedition	
Gas cylinders, 230 gr (new)	$ 8	
Gas cylinders, 230 gr (refilled)	$ 3	
Gas cylinder, 10 L	$ 20	The price is valid provided the empty cylinder is returned. If it's not returned than additional USD30 will be charged
Gas cylinder, 20 L	$ 35	The price is valid provided the empty cylinder is returned. If it's not returned than additional USD50 will be charged
Dining tent	$ 25 / day	Deposit is USD 500 per tent
Kitchen tent	$ 5 / day	Deposit is USD 100 per tent
Trekking tent/Base camp tent	$ 8 / day	Deposit is USD 300 per tent
Satellite phone (Thuraya)	$ 10 / day	Deposit is USD 500 per phone
20 call units for Thuraya	$ 35 / card	
0,8-1,2 kilowatt generator (China) with electrical equipment	$120 / 15-20 days	
Other gear is available for rent, such as: ice axe, burner, carabiner, ropes, avalanche shovel, avalanche probe, avalanche beacon, plastic high-altitude boots, crampons, etc.		

3. Accommodation

City/ Area	Type of accomodation		Hotel price, USD			
			Single	Double	Junior Suite	Suite
Bishkek	Hotel	Hyatt Regency Bishkek, 5*	$ 375	$ 457	$ 486	$ 697
		Jannat 5*	$ 174	$ 204	$ 276	$ 327
		Ak-Keme 4*	$ 160	$ 220	$ 300	$ 500
		Silk Road Lodge 4*	$ 164	$ 177	$ 190	$ 211
		Alpinist 3*	$ 57	$ 70	-	-
		Asia Mountains ***	$ 60	$ 70	$ 80	-
	Guest house	Demi	$ 57	$ 77		$ 115
		Umai	$ 48	$ 62	-	-
		Crocus	$ 37	$ 47	-	-
		Royal Home	$ 37	$ 47	-	-
	Hotels and guest houses prices include breakfast					
		1 room	$ 30	2 people		
		2 rooms	$ 35	4 people		
	Appartment	3 rooms	$ 42	No more than 6 people		
	*Prices do not include breakfast					
Ala-Archa	Hotel	"Ala-Archa" pack, 2100 m	$ 26	$ 43	$ 54	$ 106
	Hut*	"Ak-Sai" mountain hut, 3100 m	$ 11 / per person Up to 14-15 people in a room		$ 22 / per person Up to 6 people in a room	
	*Prices do not include food					

City/ Area	**Type of accomodation**		**Hotel price, USD**			
Issyk-Kul Lake, north shore	Hotel	KarVen Issyk-Kul	January-April, October – December,			
			$ 49	$ 81	$ 104	$ 113
			May-June			
			$ 49	$ 81	$ 129	$ 161
			July, August, September			
			$ 83	$ 124	$ 148	$ 202
			Prices for accommodation at “KarVen Issyk-Kul” include breakfast and taxes			
		KarVen Four Seasons	January-April, October – December,			
			$ 49	$ 81	-	$ 117
			May-June			
			$ 49	$ 81	-	$ 128
			July, August, September			
			$ 83	$ 124	-	$ 189
			Prices for accommodation at “KarVen Four Seasons” include breakfast and taxes			
	Guest House	Raduga	September 01– June 14			
			$ 90	$90	$ 140	$ 160
			June 15 июня – 01 сентября			
			$ 130	$ 130	$ 220	$ 250
			Prices for accommodation at “Raduga” hotel include 3 meals a day and taxes			
	Guest house	CBT Tamchi, Tamchi village	B&B - $ 10 / чел в 2-х и 3-х местных комнатах			
Karakol	Hotel	Amir 3*	$ 45	$ 64	-	-
	Guest House	Green Yard	$ 32	$ 47	-	-
		Elita	$ 25	$ 35	-	-
		CBT Karakol	$ 13 / per person in double or triple rooms			
	Prices include breakfast and taxes					
Issyk-Kul Lake, south shore	Guest House	«Kyrgyzland» Tamga village	$ 29	$ 17	-	-
		Prices include breakfast and taxes				
Naryn	Guest House	Celestial Mountains	$ 41	$ 49	-	$62
		Khan-Tengri	$ 22	$ 32	-	-
		CBT“Baktigul”	$ 17 / per person in double or triple room			
	Yurt camp	“Son-Kul”, lake Son-Kul, 3016 m	$ 26 /per person (5-6 people per yurt)			Open: June 15 – September 15
		“Tash-Rabat”, canyon Tash-Rabat, 3000 м	$ 26 / per person (5-6 people per yurt)			Open: May 15 – September 30
	Prices include breakfast and dinner					
Osh	Hôtel	Deluxe 3*	$ 53	$ 53	$ 74	-
		Sunrise 3*	$ 43	$ 47	$ 55	$ 100
		Tez-centre 3*	$ 21	$ 41	-	-
		Peking 3*	$ 30	$ 38	$ 51	$ 68
	Guest house	CBT Osh	$ 16 / per person in double or triple rooms			
	* Prices include breakfast and taxes					

4. Formalities

Consular service	Price in USD	Processing time
Tourist visa for Kyrgyzstan		
Single entry group visa, up to 1 month stay	$ 60 / per person	10 working days (Consulate Department of MIA in Bishkek)
Double entry group visa, up to 1 month stay	$ 90 / per person	10 working days (Consulate Department of MIA in Bishkek)
Single entry visa, up to 1 month stay	$ 70 / per person	Upon arrival at the airport “Manas” (1-2 hours)
Double entry visa, up to 1 month stay	$ 80 / per person	Upon arrival at the airport “Manas” (1-2 hours)
Transit single entry	$ 40 / per person	Upon arrival at the airport “Manas” (1-2 hours)
Transit double entry	$ 50 / per person	Upon arrival at the airport “Manas” (1-2 hours)
Extension of tourist visa up to 1 month	$ 55 / per person	3 working days (Passport and Visa control Department in Bishkek)
Visa Support for tourist visa (except African citizens)		
Individuals and small groups to 9 people	$ 50 / per person	10 working days (Consulate Department of MIA in Bishkek)
Groups from 10 to 19 people	$ 40 / per person	10 working days (Consulate Department of MIA in Bishkek)
Groups of 20 people and more	$ 30 / per person	10 working days (Consulate Department of MIA in Bishkek)
Permit to the border zone of Kyrgyzstan		
Permit	$ 35 / per person	15 working days

NOTE:
Please note, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its consular departments in Bishkek and abroad reserve the right to change processing fee and time without advance notice.

5. Other services

1. Purchase of food according to the list sent in advance – price of food + 10% for service
2. Custom clearance of the equipment shipped Cargo and delivery from the airport - custom duties + $75 for services
3. Search and rescue works can be conducted only if there is the insurance with $30,000 insurance cover, it has to be purchased in advance.

Appendix 5. Cartography.

The mapping system in Kyrgyzstan who is also the former Soviet system currently used in the Russian Federation and in all the countries of the former Soviet Union. Kyrgyzstan was topographied during Soviet times throughout all its territory ranges from 1/1,000,0000, 1/500,000, 1/200,000 and 1/100,000 and partially at 1/50,000. Quadrants 1/1,000,000 are indexed following the WMI standard (International Map of the Word), from the equator with the letter A and moves poleward increasing the letters. Longitudinal sections are indexed by growing numbers from west to east.

Kyrgyzstan sits astride several quadrants 1/1,000,000, as follows from west to east and north to south: K-42, K-43, K-44, J-42 , J-43, J-44.

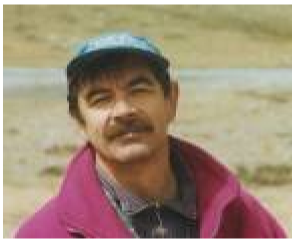
Each quadrant 1/1,000,000 is divided into four maps at 1/500,000, 36 maps at 1/200,000 and 144 maps at 1/100,000, all numbered in order from west to east and north to south. The maps at 1/100, 000 are divided into 4 to form the maps at 1/50, 000 th.

For a more complete description of the Soviet mapping, one can read the statement from the U.S. Army in 1958 "TM 30-548" which gives a detailed description of all elements of recognizable signs on a Soviet map.

The current map system of Soviet army is largely available for free on the Internet, when most of the time in the 1980s release. However, this information can be considered reliable because the network of roads and urban areas of mountains in Kyrgyzstan have changed little since that time. On the issue of altitudes, most peaks were correctly measured, and many points of ribs are raised, even if sometimes the toponymy of remote locations is a bit lacking. For instance, it is easy to recover, thanks to these maps ! the journey of one of the first explorers of the Tian Shan, Gotfried Merzbacher during his expedition in 1902-1903. The description of the exploration contains a profusion of detail toponymy rivers and passes easily found on the corresponding maps. It is therefore also acknowledge the work of Soviet topographers in these regions particularly isolated and have often preceded on hilltops where there have left as only limited evidence of their passing, a single cairn.

The contour lines on maps at 1/50,000 are arranged sometimes every 40 meters, sometimes every 20 meters. For maps at 1/100,000 and 1/200,000, every 40 meters.

About the author



Vladimir (Anatolievich) Komissarov is a well-known mountaineer in Kyrgyzstan. He has 44 years of experience and still takes very active part in the contemporary climbing. Vladimir Komissarov has done more than 1,000 ascents in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan. He himself took part in expeditions to the regions described in the book. Vladimir is a founder and chairman of Association of mountain guides of Kyrgzstan and School of Mountain guides, president of the Kyrgyz Alpine Club, professor of Tourism Department in the Institute of Business, Management and Tourism, PhD of geology and mineralogy.

Annotation

The guide book describes well-known mountaineering regions of Kyrgyzstan as well as rarely visited and prospective ones. There is information on characteristic features of the regions, location, seasons, climate, climbing history, base camps, access, climbing opportunities, search and rescue works, provision, communication and logistics. Book provides with the information on organization and supply of mountaineering expeditions as well as recommendations on logistics and formalities. Almost each region described in the book is provided with the orographic scheme. A lot of pictures are enclosed. Guide book contains a lot of useful contacts. Every one who plans a visit to the mountains of Kyrgyzstan or has any interest in the mountains of Central Asia will find this book very useful.